



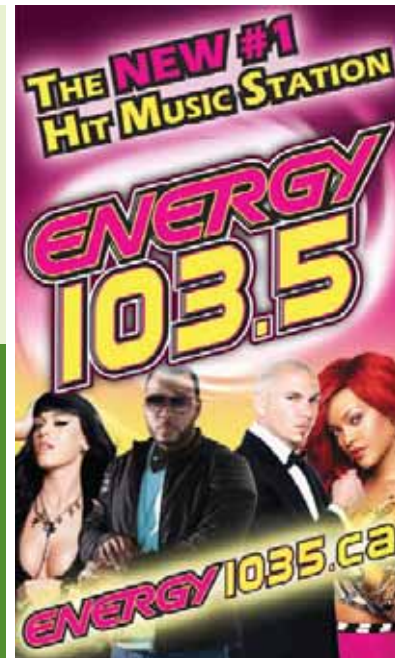
MAN DOWN
HERD WILL BE
WITHOUT BLUE-LINER
ON ROAD TRIP {page 42}

**EXCITING AND FUN
BUT DO REVIEWERS
THINK SAFE HOUSE
IS A SAFE BET?** {page 25}



**BIG BOOST
FOR MSVU
'PIVOTAL'
DONATION**

{page 10}



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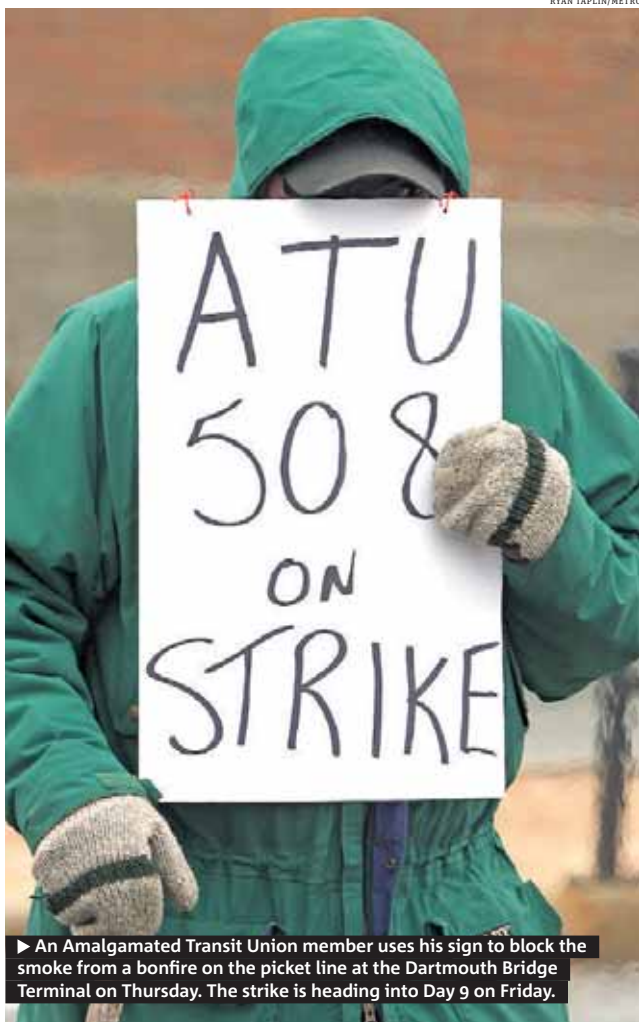
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Weekend,
February 10-12, 2012
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News worth
sharing.

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO



► An Amalgamated Transit Union member uses his sign to block the smoke from a bonfire on the picket line at the Dartmouth Bridge Terminal on Thursday. The strike is heading into Day 9 on Friday.

No end in sight for transit strike

- Negotiations break down early Thursday, no new talks planned
- Metro Transit workers have been on strike for more than a week
- About 96,000 people use transit in HRM on a daily basis



ALY THOMSON
HALIFAX@METRONews.CA

With no visible end to the transit strike in sight, some HRM commuters are changing their ways — for good.

Rose Zack says she usually walks or takes the bus to work in the downtown area but since the strike hit she's been biking from her home on Quinpool Road.

"It's been forcing me to find other ways to get around, and I actually prefer biking," Zack said, while holding the handlebars of a mint blue vintage-like bike on Barrington Street Thursday.

"I definitely will try and keep that up after (the strike is over).... I'm really enjoying it."

On Thursday afternoon, several bikes could be seen chained

to lamp posts in the downtown core.

Talks broke off between the city and Amalgamated Transit Union Local 508, which represents the over 700 transit workers, early Thursday morning after a 21-hour marathon negotiating session, leaving commuters in limbo, wondering when the buses and ferries will start running again.

It can't come soon enough for Danish Khan, a student at Dalhousie University. The Beechville resident is now forced to carpool into the city's downtown core hours before his first class at noon.

"I have a student bus pass, so that's usually all I use to get everywhere," Khan said on Thursday. "And there's no way I can pay for a cab ride."

But other residents say they're not fazed by the strike,

Inside

More coverage of ongoing the Metro Transit strike.

- Page 4: Both sides blame other for end of talks.
- Page 4: Council sticking to its guns on offer.
- Page 6: Tough times for a striking transit couple.
- Page 6: Haligonians sound off via social media.

and have been coping just fine.

Carol Johnstone said she often takes the bus, but also has the option to drive her car.

"Since I have a car, I'm not completely devastated," said Johnstone, a local artist who lives near the Armdale Rotary. "I drive my car if I have to, and walk if it's not too far."

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Council sticking to latest transit offer

Mayor Peter Kelly says the contentious issue of rostering was only taken off the table in a last-ditch effort to avert the Metro Transit strike.

Now that the strike enters its second week, the issue has become non-negotiable.

After a closed-door update on negotiations between Metro Transit and the Amalgamated Transit

Union Local 508 Thursday, Kelly told reporters Halifax regional council is sticking to its most recent final offer.

"We gave them choices, with and without (rostering)," Kelly said.

"We're now dealing with the cost of transit.... The issue about of rostering is worth about \$1 million, and the issue of step is worth \$2.1 million. So,

right now, their ask is about \$8.8 million, our offer is about \$2.1 (million)."

Kelly could not provide a full breakdown of those numbers. Last week, Metro Transit director Eddie Robar said the union's ask would cost the municipality \$10 million.

Kelly said the municipality remains open to returning to the negotiating table. But he repeatedly insisted

the municipality will stick to the offer that was put on the table Wednesday.

"We can't continue to throw money at the situation," he said. "We have to fix it, to make (it) efficient for the long term. We can't use an outdated system of rostering.... That's (a) \$1-million cost to the taxpayers. That is a cost that we think the taxpayers should get the gain." ● ALEX BOUTILIER



► Mayor Peter Kelly

Silence at the negotiating table

► Most, if not all, smaller concessions have been resolved in transit dispute



JENNIFER TAPLIN
@METRONEWS.CA

Talks are off and none are planned as the transit strike continues into its second week.

"We're done until the employer calls me," said Ken Wilson, president of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 508, on Thursday.

Wilson said he feels the negotiations, which started at 11 a.m. Wednesday morning and collapsed at 7 a.m. Thursday, were rigged from the beginning.

"They knew (rostering) was going to be an issue and I think they did it to see if we'd walk away, and we didn't," Wilson said. "It tells me the employer actually knew we weren't going to get a deal and it wasn't more than political theatre and smoke and



► Eddie Robar

mirrors."

He said it was "borderline bad-faith bargaining."

Roster, a system of scheduling shifts, was once off the table with wage concessions, but Eddie Robar, director of Metro Transit, said that was before the strike.

"It was a last-ditch effort for us to do that; however now the strike is on, that ridership and revenue loss is inevitable. Our issue now is to be ... even more operationally efficient as



► Amalgamated Transit Union Local 508 president Ken Wilson, right, and his team leave the negotiating table on Wednesday night.

we move forward," he said.

The package Metro Transit is proposing would cost about \$2.1 million. But Robar said the union's demands would cost \$8.8 million.

"I would never leave my people on the street over money. This is about quality of life and rostering and they know that," he said.

Robar said he's willing to sit down with the union

again to figure out how to work in rostering.

"That starts with the ATU recognizing that in order to move forward, we need to be more efficient at what we do," he said.

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Social media



We asked readers how a possible long-term transit strike would affect them.

Via Twitter:

- ▶ **@lnurse2007:** this long term strike will really hurt my bank account, if they don't want thier job, i will take it, I'm jobless and looking
- ▶ **@Zuligin:** This strike is separating me from my family, as I have to stay in city ... to get to work
- ▶ **@TheDrake1001:** The longer the strike goes on, the earlier the morning commute will be for everyone. Traffic has been insane. #Halifax
- ▶ **@aseralstrasza:** Longer it goes on the less of an opinion I have for over-privileged union workers.

Via Facebook:

- ▶ **Janis Sampson:** I have canceled all my day time ac-

tivities and meetings and school.... am now sitting at home everyday. This is not only affecting my daily activities it's affecting my mental well being!

- ▶ **Bethany Paris:** it will affect myself & my son very much as he goes to the I.W.K Hospital for specialist appointments and we rely on the transit bus to get to and from these appointments.
- ▶ **Crystal Patterson:** I will have no choice but to drop out of school and quit my job, I'll have no social life as metro transit was my way around, I'll probably sit in my house everyday.
- ▶ **Susan Miller:** I couldn't care less about it. I walk to work. My family always finds away around the strike to do what they need to do. Including visiting me. I don't care if it's ever resolved. Me and mine will get by in spite of Metro Transit and their drivers.

'Like a punch in the stomach'

▶ Striking transit couple are one of about two dozen on the picket line



JENNIFER TAPLIN
@METRONEWS.CA

Talk about stress.

Bus drivers Roger Whidden and Crystal Rudolph met on the job a few years ago and now walk together on the picket line.

"We have a mortgage and car payments that are going to be coming due and we're not really sure where we'll get the money for that, but we're out here, fighting the good fight," Rudolph said.

They have three kids to support and a mortgage to pay. They got paid on Thursday since their pay lags two weeks behind, with the first of the strike pay to start Feb. 24. Even then, it's \$150 a week — hardly enough to pay bills.

"This morning, I tell you, it's pretty depressing," Whidden said.



▶ Crystal Rudolph and Roger Whidden wave to supportive motorists as they walk the picket line at the Dartmouth Bridge Terminal on Thursday.

"Today is like a punch in the stomach. We thought things were going well (Wednesday) and (negotiators) were in there doing their thing, but now it's a whole new ballgame."

They said they can give

it another week before they need to start looking for a source of temporary income. After that, it gets "dicey," Rudolph said.

But, couple or not, Whidden said it's rough for everyone to face an uncertain future.

"It almost seemed like a light at the end of the tunnel, and now, today, it's like back to Day 1, and you just don't know."

STRIKING BUS DRIVER
ROGER WHIDDEN

"People get on about us making so much money, but we're just getting by, and a lot of us live paycheque to paycheque as it is," he said. "Unless you're 20 years old and you live at home with next to no bills, that's the only way you have really have any money."

They said there are plenty of cases where the striking workers are the sole earners for their household, including union president Ken Wilson.



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COMBINED FUEL EFFICIENCY (L/100 KM)	4.7	5.0	5.1	5.3
ENGINE SIZE (LITRES)	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.4
HORSEPOWER	200	191	206	206
CARGO CAPACITY (LITRES)	371	334	304	280
AIRBAGS	10	7	6	6

*2012 Camry Hybrid city and combined fuel efficiency comparisons are with respect to all other gasoline and hybrid vehicles in the class. The class is intermediate class per R.L. Polk Canada, Inc., excluding diesel/electric/plug-in hybrid vehicles. 2012 Camry fuel efficiency estimates determined using approved Government of Canada test methods. Actual results may vary. [†]Camry model shown is a 2012 Camry Hybrid LE with an MSRP of \$26,990. MSRPs do not include freight and PDI (\$1,565), license, insurance, registration, applicable taxes, levies and fees. Dealer may sell for less. ¹MSRPs do not include freight and PDI, license, insurance, registration, applicable taxes, levies and fees. All competitor data is sourced from competitor websites as of February 2, 2012.

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Premier still won't intervene in strike

▶ Dexter hopes Metro Transit union will expand Access-a-Bus service



**ALEX
BOUTILIER**
@METRONEWS.CA

The transit strike is now a week old, but Premier Darrell Dexter's opinion on the possibility of provincial in-

tervention hasn't changed.

Dexter told reporters Thursday he can't speculate as to whether or not the provincial government will intervene in negotiations between Metro Transit and the Amalgamated

Transit Union Local 508.

“(The economic downturn) has put an downward pressure on things like wages and benefits, and I think it’s natural enough that the representatives of working people are going

to push back," Dexter told reporters. "(But) my hope, of course, as always, (is that) can be resolved in a respectful manner and that that can be done at the negotiating table."

Dexter reiterated his de-

sire for Metro Transit and the union to work together to resume the Access-a-Bus service. Currently, riders who use the service for dialysis have been accommodated, but Dexter would like to see that expanded.



▶ Darrell Dexter

Senator remembered as 'great champion'

Conservative Sen. Fred Dickson, a respected Nova Scotia lawyer and offshore resources expert who promoted Atlantic Canada's energy interests, died Thursday.

He was 74.

Dickson advised federal and provincial governments on numerous projects, including Nova Scotia's oil and gas agreements with Ottawa in the early 1980s.

He also played a key role advising the federal government on the building of the Confederation Bridge, which links New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper extended his condolences to Dickson's family and friends.

"The people of Nova Scotia and of Canada mourn the passing today of this notable Canadian," Harper said in a statement.

"He remained a committed advocate for Nova Scotia throughout his life and will be missed."

Premier Darrell Dexter also issued a statement, saying Dickson was a "great champion on behalf of Nova Scotia," especially when it came to promoting the Lower Churchill hydroelectric development in Labrador.

"He was one of those people who really mobilized the Conservative caucus in Ottawa," Dexter said. "Obviously, we are very thankful to him for his work on that."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Education department to release budgets

tioned by reporters. She said she would not be revealing any information on the budgets until she meets with school board chairs and superintendents.

"When I meet with the board chairs ... I'm going to meet with all of you folks down here (Friday)," Jennex tsaid.

Jennex did hint this year's budgets will be tied to enrollment, which continues to decline across the province, after last week's cabinet meeting.

The Department of Education released its plan for schools last Friday. It included \$6.7 million over the next five years to change Nova Scotia's curriculum and teacher certification.

School boards' budgets were cut by an average of 1.65 per cent — \$17.6 million — last year.

ALEX BOUTILIER



▶ Ramona Jennex

[illegible]

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POLICE INVESTIGATION

Man beaten with pipes

Police are investigating after a man was beaten with metal pipes in Dartmouth.

Officers were called to the scene and found a man lying on the sidewalk in the 300 block of Portland Street at 4:45 p.m. on Wednesday.

He was suffering from head wounds. Police be-

lieve the wounds he suffered are non-life-threatening.

During the investigation, police discovered that the victim had agreed to talk to two men in an alleyway when they started beating him.

They were last seen running across Portland Street and taking a path from Lakefront Road to Joffe Street.

Both suspects are described as men in their early 20s, with slim to medium builds. ● METRO

Property-damage charges

Police say a 19-year-old man is facing charges after someone was caught spraying graffiti in the 2500 block of Windsor Street on Wednesday night. The man is facing charges of property damage and is due in court at a later date. ● METRO

A move for government?

Nova Scotia's Liberal leader is not opposed to moving provincial government departments outside Halifax.

Responding to questions from members of the Springhill and Area Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, Stephen McNeil said moving departments to rural communities is something of merit. AMHERST DAILY

Donation a boost for MSVU

► University hasn't built a new classroom since 1971 ► \$12 million is needed for the facility, which the school hopes to achieve by year's end



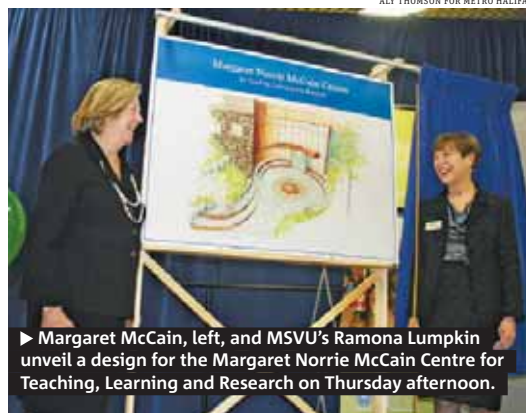
ALY THOMSON
HALIFAX@METRONEWS.CA

The president of Mount Saint Vincent University calls a multimillion-dollar donation to help build a new campus building "significant and pivotal" in the school's history.

Ramona Lumpkin, president of the Mount, said Margaret McCain's donation of \$2.25 million — the largest individual contribution in the university's history — will help build the learning centre that will bear her name.

The Margaret Norrie McCain Centre for Teaching, Learning and Research will not only be a space for classrooms, but also a museum-of-sorts that honours women, said Lumpkin.

She said there are plans for an artistic installation



► Margaret McCain, left, and MSVU's Ramona Lumpkin unveil a design for the Margaret Norrie McCain Centre for Teaching, Learning and Research on Thursday afternoon.

in the atrium that will highlight 12 inspiring women as well as a "wall of honour" in front of the building to pay homage to women in our daily lives.

"It will really be a landmark facility on the Mount's campus that will tell the stories of women

and inspire our students, faculty and staff for generations to come," Lumpkin said on Thursday.

As a member of a number of women's-rights organizations and the first female lieutenant-governor of New Brunswick, McCain undoubtedly fits the bill as

"It's really a transformation gift for us."

RAMONA LUMPKIN, PRESIDENT OF MOUNT SAINT VINCENT UNIVERSITY, ON THE DONATION

an inspirational woman, said Lumpkin.

McCain said the building is an initiative that is close to her heart.

"The health and well-being of women has been a personal mission of mine for the past 20 years," she told a crowd of about 250 people at the Mount.

"I cannot state too strongly how important this is to cherish the Mount's mission."

McCain's contribution brings the total money raised to \$7 million since the launch of fundraising efforts for the \$12-million facility last year.

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News in brief

Teens charged in robbery

CRIME. Police say two youths, aged 14 and 15, are facing charges after an armed robbery at Lovett's Store on Highway 7 in Cole Harbour. Just before 1 p.m., Halifax RCMP say two masked suspects, a male and a female, entered the store and fled with cash and cigarettes.

● METRO

Man arrested on warrant

CRIME. Police say a man on their Outstanding Warrant Wanted List from last September has been arrested. John Pierre Graves-Smith, 25, was nabbed on Wednesday in Moncton on two counts of breach of conditions.

● METRO

The fattier, the better for eats

► Fewer than 5% of Halifax respondents said they always eat healthy, survey finds

BY THE NUMBERS

RICK EMBERLEY
HALIFAX@METRONews.CA



Is the health-care system ready for us?

It's a fact: 24 per cent of us still smoke in

HRM, over 80 per cent say they consume more than five drinks of alcohol each week and over 30 per cent of us admit to having unhealthy eating habits.

Yet we are all concerned about the ability of the health-care system to "look after" us and most folks complain about the cost.

Much of the rest of our health-care report card is



► A poor diet, among other factors, is painting a dubious picture of our health.

not a lot better.

Only 14 per cent of respondents in a recent survey said they never eat junk food and a tiny four per cent claimed that they always eat healthy.

And when we probed further into specific eating habits, things only looked a

little bit better.

We asked folks about some of their eating habits as related to the Canada Food Guide. Only six per cent reported they have the recommended daily servings of fruits and vegetables and nine per cent indicated they consume the suggest-

Polling

► A total of 428 HRM residents were surveyed, with the poll carrying a margin of error of plus-or-minus 4.7 per cent.

ed amount of grains.

There were 21 per cent of respondents who said they felt they drank the required amount of water, and 81 per cent admitted to eating "too much fried food."

Why does it appear that we are not eating properly? When asked that question, 73 per cent said eating healthy is expensive and 20 per cent reported their lifestyle gets in the way. Another 14 per cent were not aware of the best choices.

So if our consumption habits are questionable, are we taking other steps to

maintain or improve our health? The majority of those surveyed, 67 per cent, said they rarely or never partake in vigorous exercise.

However, 41 per cent said they had dieted over the past year, including seven per cent who said they took advantage of formal weight-loss programs.

But despite many questionable habits, 83 per cent felt our health is good to excellent.

I guess the question is, how long will that be the case? Will the health-care system be able to manage looking after those of us who fall into ill health because of our lifestyle?

Rick Emberley is senior counsel with the polling firm MQO Research. He has conducted public-opinion research in the region for

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Nova Scotia rejects loan application

The province rejected a \$1.1-million loan application by a steel foundry because it's too risky, the province's economic development minister said Thursday.

Percy Paris said loaning public money to Maritime Steel Foundry in New Glasgow could not be justified.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



► Percy Paris

No order for health units to unite: N.S.

Premier Darrell Dexter says the province did not order district health authorities to co-ordinate their approach to bargaining

\$42M In a news release issued Wednesday the health districts estimated the cost would be \$42 million.

with unions.

However, he says it's a move that makes sense given the province and the health districts are trying to contain system costs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Crown makes argument for Supreme Court to hear sex-abuse appeal

► Ernest Fenwick MacIntosh convicted in 2010 for over a dozen charges in sexual-abuse case

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS



► Ernest Fenwick MacIntosh

The Crown in Nova Scotia says the Supreme Court of Canada should consider society's "heightened interest" in sexual-abuse cases when it decides whether to allow an appeal to proceed in the case of Ernest Fenwick MacIntosh.

MacIntosh was convicted by the Nova Scotia Supreme Court in July 2010 on 13 of 26 charges of indecent assault and gross indecency, almost 15 years after allegations surfaced that he sexually abused boys.

However, the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal dismissed the convictions late last year, arguing that he was not brought to trial in a timely manner. The appeal-court justices found that the trial judge wrongly placed the onus on MacIntosh to turn himself in while he was living in India.

They ruled that when officials didn't pursue him for extradition, even though they knew where he was, his right to be tried within a reasonable time was infringed.

In a brief filed with the Supreme Court of Canada on Feb. 2, Nova Scotia's

30 days Brian Casey, MacIntosh's lawyer, says he has 30 days to file a response to the application to the Supreme Court which he received Monday.



prosecutors say the appeal court erred because it didn't give enough weight to the public's interest in having a trial despite the passage of time.

In particular, it failed to "consider society's heightened interest in a trial on the merits for serious allegations of sexual violence against children and young persons," the Crown argues.

The Crown also says they can rely on legal precedents from provincial Supreme Court decisions that support its position.

"The Nova Scotia Court of Appeal has taken a different approach, focusing instead almost exclusively on the actions of the state in its efforts to bring about the return of the accused and characterizing the accused's decision to remain out of the country as passive inaction."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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MetroTransit negotiations: it *is* about the money — *your* money

HRM thinks buses should be on the road and ferries should be plying the harbour; we believe members of Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 508 share that view.

What isn't in dispute is the reality that HRM residents expect an efficient transit system, but at what cost? There is a **\$6.7 million difference** between our respective positions, a difference that taxpayers and passengers will eventually have to cover if management is not allowed to introduce a modern scheduling system, known as "rostering."

Under the present system of scheduling, the top 20 overtime earners at Metro Transit last year **made more than \$26,000 in overtime on top of a base salary of \$50,000 per year.**

ATU Proposal

Major Items

- ✓ No changes to contracting out practices
- ✓ No part-time conventional bus operators
- ✗ Cafeteria-pick scheduling system (individual shifts picked by day of the week, according to seniority) *Process takes 24 days to complete.*
- ✗ Wage increases of 8.25% over 3 years (2.5, 3, and 2.75)
- ✗ No wage restructuring for incoming operators

Union Demand: \$8.8 Million



The ATU must be aware that excessive overtime costs like this are contrary to the economic realities of today's workplace, and that the hard-pressed **HRM taxpayers cannot continue to support the cost indefinitely.**

If we accept the ATU proposal, transit users bear the additional cost – and to an even greater extent – so do the taxpayers who already cover more than half of transit's costs, currently \$36 million.

We need a deal the public can afford that gets HRM's transit system moving again and keeps it moving for years to come.

See for yourself where we stand.

HRM Proposal

Major Items

- ✓ No changes to contracting out practices
- ✓ No part-time conventional bus operators
- ✗ Rostering scheduling system (same shift picked in one-week blocks, according to seniority). *Industry standard, reduces excessive overtime, and process takes about 2 days to complete*
- ✗ Lump sum payment equivalent to 2.5% of wages in the first year, a 3% wage increase in the second year, and a 2% wage increase in the third year
- ✗ Wage restructuring for incoming operators with step increases to full operator rate at the end of four years

Our Offer: \$2.1 Million

(including offsets realized through rostering and wage restructuring for incoming employees)

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halifax.ca/metrotransit

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490-4000

Canadian trio rescued at sea

- Family members' sailboat left adrift in Pacific Ocean
- Stranded boat capsized by arriving rescue ship

Three Canadians attempting their first voyage across the Pacific in a sailboat were left adrift in rough seas hundreds of kilometres from land when their mast broke in high winds.

Just when they thought they were being rescued seven hours later, the swell from the arriving cargo ship capsized the smaller vessel, tossing the trio into the cold water.

As the sailboat was destroyed, nine-year-old West James prepared for the worst. "We're gonna sink. We're gonna die," the boy said, according to his father, Bradley James.



► West James

Bradley James, 32, said he tried to keep his son calm as they were in the Pacific for about two hours.

The father and son, along with Bradley's younger brother Mitchell, hit a series of storms while sailing from Mexico to Hawaii and on Tuesday high winds snapped their

mast and choppy water overheated their engine about 300 miles from their destination. The trio tried to work up a makeshift sail but it blew away.

They contacted the Coast Guard and officials directed a massive cargo ship to the stranded 12-metre vessel.

Things might have seemed to be improving, but instead the nearly 275-metre containership flipped the trio into the ocean early Wednesday.

All three eventually arrived in Honolulu safe and sound aboard the cargo ship early Thursday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nature. Walk



► An interpretive trail and viewing platform overlooking glaciers along the Icefields Park way in Jasper National Park is shown in this artist's rendition.

BREWSTER TRAVEL CANADA/HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Feds OK national park walkway

Environment Minister Peter Kent is giving a green light to a controversial glacier-walk project in Alberta's Jasper National Park, despite opposition from Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, which has said the walkway may affect the ability of animals such as mountain goats to move between different ranges.

Father of man charged in RCMP case speaks

The father of a man charged with attempted murder in the shooting of two Alberta Mounties has made an emotional plea for his fugitive son to come home.

Ray Robison spoke directly to his son at a news conference outside the

RCMP detachment in Kilam on Thursday.

"Sawyer, we love you," he read haltingly from a piece of paper, his wife and a friend at his side. "You know that."

"We want to have you back and we know how hard it may be for you to

"Swallow your hurt and listen to the quiet world."

RAY ROBISON, FATHER OF THE MAN CHARGED IN THE SHOOTING OF TWO MOUNTIES

come back to us."

Robison said the 27-

year-old man has the support of family and friends.

Sawyer Clarke Robison has been on the run since Tuesday, when the Mounties were shot on the family farm, about 160 kilometres southeast of Edmonton.

RCMP have said they

consider him a high risk because he may be armed with long-barrelled weapons. He's now the subject of a Canada-wide warrant.

Spokesman Sgt. Patrick Webb said police are casting a wide net for information to resolve things

without further violence.

Webb also confirmed that investigators believe it was Robison's uncle, Brad Clarke, who was found dead at the scene. An autopsy will have to be conducted before police can release the cause of death. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Man up for the Manathlon on April 7th at the Cunard Centre.

Teams will compete in a daylong series of challenges to test their manliness and benefit The Canadian Testicular Cancer Association.

SO IF YOU'VE GOT THE BALLS TO SAVE SOME BALLS,
VISIT WWW.THEMANATHLON.COM TO SIGN UP YOUR TEAM OR DONATE.



JULIE JACOBSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

► In this 2009 file photo, U.S. Marine Sgt. Monica Perez helps Lance Cpl. Mary Shloss put on her headscarf before heading out on a patrol in Afghanistan.

PENTAGON MOVES TO EASE JOB LIMITS FOR WOMEN IN MILITARY

The U.S. military formally opened thousands of jobs to women on Thursday in units that are closer to the front lines than ever before, reflecting what already has been occurring as female soldiers fight and die next to their male comrades.

The new rules, affecting thousands of jobs, will break down more of the official barriers that have restricted the military positions women can take. They are being sent to Congress, and if lawmakers take no action after 30 work days the policy will take effect.

The changes still are not coming fast enough for some in Congress or the military. They noted the rules still ban women from serving as infantry, armour and special-operations forces, which are considered the most dangerous combat jobs.

Instead, they reflect

what has been happening for the past 10 years of war in Iraq and Afghanistan. They will allow women to perform many jobs they already are doing, but in smaller units, closer to the fighting and once considered too dangerous.

"Unfortunately, the conclusions of this report do not go far enough," said Rep. Loretta Sanchez, a member of the Armed Services Committee in the House of Representatives, who started a caucus on women in the military. Sanchez said she was "very disappointed" that the Defence Department failed to lift the ban on combat jobs for women.

Because service in combat gives troops an advantage for promotions and job opportunities, it has been more difficult for women to move to the higher ranks. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Fashion's man of the moment defies gender

► Androgynous Aussie has modelled for Marc Jacobs, John Galliano, Jean Paul Gaultier ► At six-foot-one he's rail-thin, a women's size 2 or 4

On a chilly day, Andrej Pejic settles into a Manhattan café with a cup of tea, sitting gracefully, long legs crossed. The blue-eyed fashion model gazes out a window, unaware that almost every man sitting nearby is transfixed.

A man walks up to the window, presses his face against the glass and kisses it. Pejic giggles and admits: "I find it flattering."

The admirers are likely unaware that the beautiful blond is actually a man.

As Fashion Week gets under way in New York City, Pejic is one of the most recognizable — and controversial — faces in the industry. He's the only top-tier fashion model who can walk down the runway as either a man or a woman. And his androgynous beauty has turned him into a trendsetter in an industry that's always seeking to push the envelope.

Although Pejic isn't trying to be a woman, many in the transgender community have already claimed him as their own. He is seen as a bit of a maverick, someone who has embraced his sexuality without any need for explanation or justification.

Last year, the gay and lesbian magazine *Out* named him "stylemaker of the year" and put him on



RICHARD DREW/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

► Model Andrej Pejic has makeup applied for a fashion shoot in New York.

14 Andrej Pejic graced the covers of 14 magazines last year alone, including an ad campaign for a Dutch push-up bra.

its cover wearing a bridal veil and flowers in his hair.

French designer Jean Paul Gaultier was so enamoured of Pejic that he used his gender-bending look as a source of inspiration for his 2011 men's and women's wear shows, both

of which Pejic modelled in. In the Gaultier men's show, a pistol-packing, bare-chested Pejic wore a sleek black suit as "James Blonde."

From an early age, Pejic exhibited qualities thought of as traditionally feminine, for instance, preferring Barbies over toy cars. As a teenager, he often hung out with girls. He says acceptance from his friends and family made him comfortable in his

own skin.

"I'm lucky in that sense," he says. "If I had big muscles and were hairy with a beard, I might not be comfortable with that."

While open to discussing almost anything, Pejic remains secretive about his sexual orientation. When asked whether he prefers men or women, he coyly smiles.

"Love has no boundaries," he says.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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FBI files reveal dark side of Jobs

► Documents say Apple founder was power-hungry, dishonest ► Secret report now being shared with public

PAUL SAKUMA, FILE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FBI background interviews of some people who knew Apple co-founder Steve Jobs reveal a man driven by power and alienating some of the people who worked with him.

In the FBI documents released Thursday, many of those who knew Jobs praised him, speaking highly of Jobs' character and integrity and asserting that he always conducted his business dealings in a reputable manner. They recommended him for a post during the George H.W. Bush administration.

The 1991 interviews were part of a background check for an appointment to the President's Export



► Steve Jobs

Council.

The U.S. Commerce Department confirmed Thursday that Jobs did serve on the council during the first Bush administration.

Export council members serve in an unpaid capacity and meet at least twice a

year, advising the president on trade policy.

One person told FBI agents the Apple co-founder's enormous power caused him to lose sight of honesty and integrity, leading him to distort the truth.

Another interview subject described Jobs to the FBI as a deceptive person — someone who was not totally forthright and honest, and as having a tendency to distort reality in order to achieve his goals.

And an ex-business associate who had a falling out with Jobs said that, while honest and trustworthy, Jobs nonetheless had questionable moral character.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bulls. Colombia



► Animal-rights activists lie on the ground, forming a bull's image during a protest against bullfighting in Bogota, Colombia.

FERNANDO VERGARA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Activists protest bullfighting

Man pleads guilty to South Park threats

A Muslim convert from Brooklyn pleaded guilty Thursday to using a website he founded to post online threats against the creators of the South Park television show and others he deemed enemies of Islam.

In court papers filed Thursday with his guilty plea, Jesse Curtis Morton, 33, admitted that his now-defunct Revolution Muslim

website served as an outlet for al-Qaida propaganda, and that he used the site to post thinly veiled threats against South Park creators Matt Stone and Trey Parker and others Morton believed to be against Islam.

Morton, who also uses the name Younus Abdullah Mohammad, worked closely with Zachary Adam Chesser, who was sentenced last year to 25 years

in prison for the South Park threats and other crimes.

Morton left the U.S. and took a teaching job in Morocco days after Chesser's July 2010 arrest, fearing he, too, would be charged.

He was arrested in Morocco in October and has been in custody since then, mostly in solitary confinement at the city jail.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Shark attracts controversy

► Pakistani merchant fights police over right to charge spectators

Qasim Khan waged the unlikely of battles with Pakistani authorities Thursday over the right to charge hundreds of curious visitors the equivalent of 22 cents each to see a roughly

40-foot whale shark he bought from a fisherman. Khan paid about \$2,200 US on Tuesday for the 20-ton behemoth, which was discovered dead in the Arabian Sea off Karachi.

Business was brisk Wednesday, as several thousand people paid to see the brown- and white-spotted shark. But police cracked down Thursday, saying fishery authorities had decided

people should be allowed to see the shark for free. Khan resisted and hid his prize attraction under the giant piece of green cloth he had previously used as a tent.

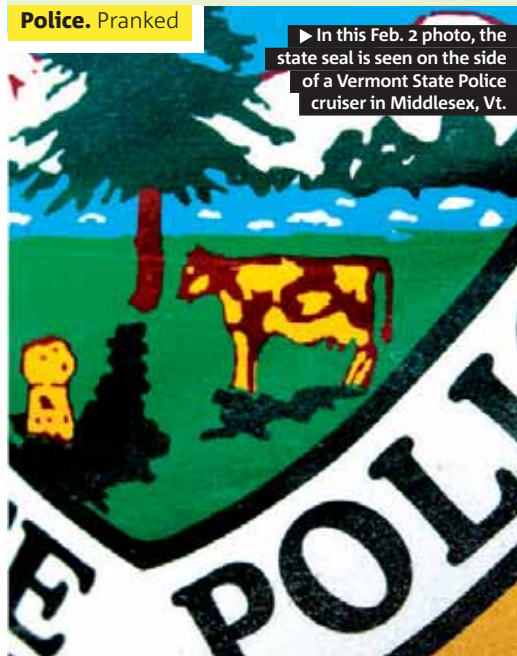
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► The carcass of a 40-foot whale shark is lifted in Karachi on Tuesday.

Police. Pranked

► In this Feb. 2 photo, the state seal is seen on the side of a Vermont State Police cruiser in Middlesex, Vt.



TOBY TALBOT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

This little piggy has fans

Remember that pig hidden within the decal on the doors of some Vermont State Police cruisers? There's now a movement underway to keep the pig. The pig hidden within the red cows was first noticed last week, years after it was hidden there by a prison inmate who designed the 16-inch decals. The creator of the "save the pigs" Facebook page, Cid Sinclair of Barre, wants the state to keep the pigs on the cruisers. He says times have been tough and the pigs are an opportunity for Vermonters "to laugh together as one." He has more than 500 supporters.

Brazil takes steps toward censorship of tweets

An attempt to block Twitter users from alerting drivers to police roadblocks, radar traps and drunk-driving checkpoints could make Brazil the first country to take Twitter up on its plans to censor content at governments' requests.

About two weeks ago, Twitter unveiled plans to allow country-specific censorship of tweets that might break local laws.

An official at the federal prosecutor's office in Goias state Thursday said that as far as he knows no other country has yet tried to get Twitter to block tweets. He declined to be identified because he was not authorized to speak to the press.

A spokesman for the federal prosecutor's office said the injunction request was filed Feb. 6.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Canada and China set table for trade

► Harper hints Canada ready to take economic relationship to next level

Canada

A new poll suggests Canadians want China's help driving the economy, but don't want China in the driver's seat.

A raft of agreements between Canada and China may see the two countries ready to set sail on free-trade talks.

But even as Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao appeared ready to jump on that ship, Trade Minister Ed

Fast was already backpedalling away from the possibility that Canada is ready for a trade deal that could revolutionize the economy.

The spectre of a free-trade deal was raised as the two countries released

a joint statement committing to complete a joint economic study by May.

That paves the way, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said, to move the economic relationship to the next level.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



► Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his wife Laureen look at a model home while touring the China-Canada Green Building Design Center in Langfang, China, Thursday.

Animals

CANADA'S PANDA-MONIUM

The Calgary Zoo says it's getting excited to roll out the welcome mat for two Chinese pandas.

Zoo spokeswoman Laurie Skene says China has agreed to lend Canada two pandas for 10 years.

The animals will divide their time equally between the Toronto and Calgary zoos, though it's not known which city they'll visit first or what age the pandas will be.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



SUSAN WALSH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Tassimo recalls products over rupture, burn concerns

► Ten-year-old Minnesota girl sent to hospital for second-degree burns

More than 40 people, including a two-year-old Canadian girl, have suffered second-degree burns from malfunctioning Tassimo coffee makers or exploding discs, prompting a recall across North America, authorities say.

Two separate Kraft Foods Canada recalls involve 900,000 Bosch-brand Tassimo coffee makers and 2 million Gevalia and Nabob espresso T-Discs in Canada.

Another 835,000 Bosch-brand Tassimo coffee makers and two million T-Discs are being recalled in the U.S.

The malfunctioning coffee makers can spray people with hot liquid, because of the way an insert is hold-



SUPPLIED

ing the single-serving discs. Health Canada reported 37 people in the U.S. and Canada suffered second-degree burns from malfunctioning coffee makers alone and another four from exploding discs.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Products pulled

Tassimo Espresso T Discs that have code information ending

between 11213 and 12020 are affected. The code information is printed on the foil lid of every Espresso T Disc.

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LABOUR UNREST

Air Canada facing pilot strike

Air Canada headed closer to another possible labour disruption Thursday after its pilots began a strike vote in response to what they said was a "rigid" company position that appeared aimed at escalating their contract dispute.

A strike mandate after the schedule five days of voting would put the air-

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

► An Air Canada flight lands in Halifax.



line's 3,000 pilots in a legal strike position early on Feb. 17, or 72 hours after the end of a mandatory cooling-off period.

The strike vote doesn't mean the pilots will actually initiate a labour stoppage, but it gives the union the ability to re-

spond to any unilateral moves by the company.

Captain Gary Tarves, chairman of the Air Canada Pilots Association, said the airline's "rigid position" raises the possibility of an "escalation."

The pilots said the company rejected its offer to delay any strike or lockout until April 2 and any strike vote to no earlier than March 22.

Their proposal would have also prohibited the company from changing conditions of pilots' employment as is allowed when job action is permitted. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**




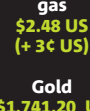
Apple to unveil new iPad?

A news report says Apple plans to unveil a new iPad early next month.

AllThingsD, a website affiliated with The Wall Street Journal, says Apple is holding an event in San Francisco the first week of March — the same week the company announced the iPad 2 last year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market moment

TSX	Dollar	Oil	Natural gas
			
- 23.09 (12,497.94)	- +0.05¢ (100.44¢ US)	+ \$1.13 US (\$99.84 US)	\$2.48 US (+ 3¢ US)
			Gold \$1,741.20 US (+ \$9.90 US)

PRICES AS OF 4 P.M. THURSDAY

Messages from ex-Beatle hacked: Mills

STEPHEN CHERNIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE



► Heather Mills

She squared off against former Beatle Paul McCartney in divorce court; on Thursday, Heather Mills took on Piers Morgan at Britain's media ethics inquiry.

The ex-model trashed Morgan's earlier testimony, saying that one of her private voicemails, which was played to the CNN interviewer and former tabloid editor, could have been obtained only through phone hacking.

Mills spoke under oath at Lord Justice Brian Leveson's inquiry into the practices of Britain's scandal-hit press, and said two dozen messages left for her by the former Beatle were intercepted by a journalist working for British newspaper group Trinity Mirror.

She said the incident happened after she and McCartney had a fight in January 2001, when McCartney, then her boyfriend, bombarded her with phone calls.

She said she found it strange that the messages were listed as having been listened to even before she had accessed them, but said she didn't realize what had happened until the Mirror journalist — unnamed for legal reasons — called her up and confronted her with

details of the battle.

"I said: 'There's no way that you could know that unless you have been listening to my messages,'" she told the inquiry. "And he laughed."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mills vs. Morgan

► The messages left for Mills by McCartney are at the centre of the allegations against CNN host Piers Morgan, who was editor of the Daily Mirror tabloid at the time.

► At the inquiry last year, Morgan denied ordering anyone to hack a phone or writing stories based on hacked messages.

Germany questions Greek plan

Not long after Greece made the politically unpopular decision to slash government spending to ease its debt crisis, Germany's finance minister questioned whether the

deal goes far enough to earn approval of a crucial 130 billion euro (\$173 billion) bailout.

Finance ministers from the 17 countries that use the euro are meeting in Brussels to scrutinize the plan, which would make deep cuts to jobs and wages in Greece.

However, Germany's Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble warned on Thursday that the new round of spending cuts appears to not yet fulfil all the conditions for the bailout.

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"New Construction in Halifax's South End" Williamsburg colonial, one of the finest and grandest homes in the area built by an award winning builder. 5 Bedroom home features a huge gourmet kitchen and a Master bedroom retreat. 5200 sq ft of luxurious finishes. **Call Sandra 830-4545.**



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570 Young Avenue, South End



"Grand and Elegant home on one of Halifax's finest streets in the South End" A stone's throw away from Point Pleasant Park, this 4 bedroom home features a gourmet kitchen, a library, and a luxurious spa like 6pc ensuite just to name a few. **Call Sandra 830-4545.**



\$1,600,000

1173 South Park St, South End



"19th century masterpiece with a modern brushstroke" 4 bdrm Second Empire architectural style home filled with character, from the long elegant windows, grand staircase, chandeliers, marble fireplaces to the formal parlour, this home is nothing short of spectacular. **Call Sandra 830-4545.**



\$545,000

576 Tower Road, South End
Open House Sun 2-4

"Perfect move in condition" 3 bedroom home with a modern flair has been completely updated. A great opportunity for a young couple who love the convenience of living close to all amenities. Parking for 2 cars and quaint south facing courtyard. **Call Sandra 830-4545.**



\$529,000

1550 Dresden Row Suite 808, Downtown Hfx

"Exquisite, renovated 1 bedroom condo in the exclusive Martello" This unit was redesigned for luxury and convenience creating a Master Suite with stunning custom cabinetry, ensuite and incredible views of Halifax Harbour/Citadel Hill. Ideal layout for entertaining. **Call Sandra 830-4545.**



\$399,900

4 York Redoubt Crescent, Halifax

"Attention architects, look no further!" Fabulous oceanfront property, Stella Maris Church, Ferguson's Cove. Approximately 2 acres of land to build your dream home. **Call Sandra 830-4545 or Ron 830-7680.**



\$550,000

85 Helmsman Court Halifax

"Luxurious split entry home located in Royal Hemlock subdivision" 5 bedroom home has a contemporary layout with open concept design that features endless architectural details with cathedral ceilings, large master suite and a gourmet kitchen just to name a few. **Call Ethan 877-0151.**



\$799,000

19 Wenlock Grove, Halifax

"Best lot on Williams Lake" Spacious 5 bdrm bungalow with added extension & spa. Huge waterfront property, moments to downtown, yacht squadron, frog pond, dingle park or swim in your own backyard. Your family will love living here. **Call Sandra 830-4545**



\$157,900

21 Matador Court, Sackville
Open House Sunday 2-4

"Attention first time home buyer" Well-loved 3 bedroom home has extensive upgrades, including new flooring, new shingles, fresh paint (interior and exterior) to name a few. Heating costs for 2010 were under \$1000. **Call Dawn 209-3506 or Matt 877-2075.**



\$845,000



5623 Point Pleasant Drive, South End

"Perfectly secluded" 4 bedroom home sits on over 11000 sq. ft. in Halifax's South end. Incredible opportunity to expand the existing house considering lot size. Point Pleasant Park is steps away. **Call Sandra 830-4545.**



\$1,150,000

20 Meadowvale Lane Grand Lake

"Fabulous Grand Lake home with 345 ft of Lake Frontage" 5 bdrm home set on 2.9 acre retreat neighbourhood of executive homes. Outside oasis includes cedar wrap around deck, 90 ft dock with boat lift and deep anchorage. **Call Sandra 830-4545.**



\$299,000

107 Duke Street, Chester

"Charming century home" 4 bedroom 2 storey has gone thru extensive renovations but kept the original character. Home renos include: electrical, plumbing, new kitchen, new bathroom just to name a few. Major work is completed now just waiting for your personal touch. **Call Sandra 830-4545 or Insof 430-0536.**



\$337,900

120 Southgate Drive, Suite 408 Bedford

"Penthouse condo with panoramic views of the Bedford Basin" This luxurious 1456 sq ft condo features 2 bedrooms plus den, 2 baths, kitchen with granite counter-tops, 6 appliances, 9ft ceilings, crown moulding and no carpet. **Call Sandra 830-4545.**



\$959,000

47 Roy Archibald Drive Bedford

"Over an acre country estate lot" 5 bdrms, 4 baths and over 5300 sq ft of finished living space. Built to the highest standards. Home features a gourmet kitchen, 4 car garage, bar, large rec room, and more. **Call Sandra 830-4545.**



\$949,900

645 Westpoint Drive Hammonds Plains

"Waterstone Estate, lakefront home" 5 bedroom home on McCabe Lake, one of the few motorized boating lakes in HRM. Exquisite owner built and perfected 4100 sqft of luxurious finishes. Home features a theatre, 3 car garage, gourmet Kitchen and so much more. Fully wired boat house. **Call Sandra 830-4545 or Heather 497-1690.**



\$424,900

570 Westpoint Drive Hammonds Plains

"Fantastic home complete with an in-law suite" Beautiful 2+ acre private lot sits a custom built family home, 5 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms with an open and bright kitchen overlooking a large backyard with custom built playhouse and playset. **Call Dawn 209-3506 or Matt 877-2075.**



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1 Hosers in heaps: Canada's population is the fastest-growing of all G8 nations. Census 2011 revealed a growth of two million over the last five years.

The fastest-growing region is the West, which means, I guess, we have to brace ourselves for a lot more country music.

2 Off The Record: Michael Landsberg's poignant documentary about depression aired on CTV this week. Darkness and Hope includes confessions from successful athletes who dispel the myths relating the illness to weakness or failure. Ironically, it depressed me a little, but I applaud all involved for the courage to bear their souls for the benefit of millions. Thanks, Michael.

3 Time out: For those contemplating a warm-weather getaway, one of the most popular new hot spots seems to be Panama City. Least popular? Damascus.

4 And speaking of Damascus: Vladimir Putin, the "hall monitor" of the Middle East, warned against outside forces meddling in Syria's affairs. He says, "We must not behave like a bull in a china shop." He's right. Especially when the bull that's already in there has broken most of the china himself.

5 Seeing is believing: Season 2 of The Voice premiered this week. It differs from other starfinder shows because judges choose without seeing contestants. There is nothing like the looks on their faces when they discover that they passed on someone beautiful or, worse, that they chose someone who looks like a female Perez Hilton.

6 One Love: Had he not left us too soon, this week would have been Bob Marley's 67th birthday. Thousands took Monday off to celebrate, but returned to work the next day unable to elaborate.

7 Toughness test: Raptors star Andrea Bargnani will get paid \$9 million this year in salary alone, but has missed 20 per cent of an already shortened season due to a strained calf. I know a guy who lost a testicle and got just one day off. To be fair, though, he sucks at basketball.

8 Freudian slip: True story: 15 years ago, at a Blur concert in London, two of the Spice Girls, Ginger and Sporty, joined the band onstage for a set, only to be thrown off by security guards who didn't know who they were. Fortunately, the girls had learned how to break a fall earlier in their career after several incidents of being "accidentally" thrown off stage.

9 Valentine's Day: This year, forget the dying plants and offer up some soul. Poetry is the potion, but if your repertoire is limited, simply choose some poignant song lyrics. This year, I'm going with LMFAO's "I got passion in my pants and I ain't afraid to show it.... I'm sexy and I know it." Hey — high risk, high reward.

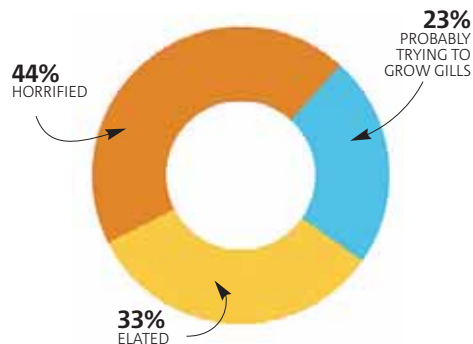
10 And the award goes to: Juno nominations were revealed this week and include Grammy nominees Bieber, Feist, Drake and Arcade Fire, as well as a bevy of future stars. To my American friends I say, "You're welcome."

More from Mike Benhaim at metronews.ca/backbeat



Register at
metropolitanpanel.ca
and take the quick poll

If a real Canadian winter never does show up this year, you will be:



Local tweets



@MarkHfx:
Ken Wilson has done the

impossible: Make Peter Kelly look good. #PeterKelly #transitstrike #hrm #halifax #kenwilson #atu #metrotransit

@Ponderlock: Not feeling so great. Was going to say I feel like I've been hit by a bus but that would be impossible in #halifax right now #transitstrike

@paigemacp: Why are so many industries in #Halifax striking? It's like the city is throwing one collective temper tantrum. Grow up!

#hfx

@John_Trask: @Mitch089 the whole city is gonna be on strike soon. #Halifax is going to be the new #Greece

@lauriecburns: less unions, more unicorns. #halifax

@frodo87: You know what #Halifax, tomorrow is Friday, how about we make it the official strike day and we ALL skip work.

@HaliforniaLove: Wouldn't it be great if the parking meter attendants when on strike? #Halifax

@Luke_Gun: skateboarding in February makes me happy #Halifax

Daily Zoom

Icy reception



LUKAS BARTH/DAPD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Missing winter? Visit an igloo

Guests of the igloo lodge enjoy drinks near the Nebelhorn mountain in Oberstdorf, southern Germany, on Wednesday.

A village of 10 igloos hosts up to 30 guests in the winter months and supplies them with warm blankets and sleeping bags, so that they can spend the night there.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Close to home

You can check out Hôtel de Glace, which is located just outside of Quebec City.

This ice hotel offers themed suites and features a Nordic relaxation area with outdoor spas and saunas.

This season it is only available until March 25.

► A guest arrives at the igloo lodge in Oberstdorf, southern Germany.



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Synopsis

Ryan Reynolds plays Matt Weston, a rookie CIA agent stationed at an underused safe house in Cape Town, South Africa. When agents bring in Tobin Frost (Denzel Washington), an ex-agent wanted for espionage, Weston is thrust into a wild escape plan, high level intrigue and must learn who to trust. Metro movie reviewer Steve Gow opines in place of Mark Breslin this week.

Ratings:

Richard: ●●●●
Steve: ●●●●



► Safe House's doomed romantic subplot featuring Ryan Reynolds slows down the action of this visceral film.

2
scene

Scene in brief



Producers say Naomi Watts will play Princess Diana in a film about the last years of the royal's life. Britain's Ecosse Films says Caught in Flight will focus on the two years before Diana's death in a Paris car crash in August 1997. It is directed by Oliver Hirschbiegel, best known for his film about Hitler's last days, Downfall.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Filmmaker Lynne Ramsay didn't give up on We Need to Talk About Kevin

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE & MARK BRESLIN



'Safe' bet for action

► Richard Crouse and Steve Gow agree Safe House is pure visceral fun
► Poor Ryan Reynolds is chewed up by the acting chops of Denzel Washington

Richard: Steve, for most of the running time, Safe House is a pretty exciting action movie. Things blow up, Denzel is a cool bad guy, but when the movie slows down to try and provide some back story it kind of lost me. What did you think?

Steve: Richard, I agree. Although the film begins with some fairly intense action, for the most part newcomer director Daniel Espinosa has crafted a pretty ordinary thriller. It's got an overabundance of car chases, foot chases and frenetic over-the-top fight scenes that, inasmuch as

they seem stolen out of the Bourne series, wears thin pretty quick. Still, that Denzel can steal a scene, can't he?

RC: He sure can, much to the detriment of his costar Ryan Reynolds. Denzel wipes the floor with Reynolds. The tension of the movie comes from Washington. He's a leading man who isn't afraid to explore the evil nature of his characters, and unlike other A-listers like Tom Cruise or Will Smith, who have it written in their contracts that they must be the hero, Washington adds in a heap of moral

ambiguity, which keeps things interesting.

SG: Absolutely. Unlike the doomed romantic sub-plot between Ryan Reynolds and a Parisian blonde. I get that Espinosa is trying to add character dimension but it just ends up unnecessary and slows the rest of the film. Besides, Safe House is about visceral action first and foremost and it does deliver there. Almost unrelentingly.

RC: Too bad Green Lantern didn't have action half as good as Safe House. Then there might have been a sequel and we'd all be talking

about Reynolds in his green tights instead of how here he is mainly a pile of clichés who barely registers when placed next to the more complex Washington character.

SG: Well, don't expect any sequels here either. In fact, for a story that was touted as one of the best unproduced scripts in Hollywood before it was snapped up, it doesn't push the crooked CIA story any further than we've seen before. Still, Denzel is clearly enjoying himself and I expect most audiences will vicariously join him for the ride.

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McG's 'war' of words

► Big-talking director McG doesn't hold back while promoting his new film *This Means War*
 ► Read on to learn what he thinks about homoerotic endings and the MPAA's rules on sex

NED EHRBAR
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 METRO WORLD NEWS IN HOLLYWOOD

Director McG — previously of the *Charlie's Angels* movies and *Terminator: Salvation* — has never shied away from big talk. And it's a quality he brought with him while promoting his latest, *This Means War*, an action movie/romantic-comedy hybrid about two CIA agents (Tom Hardy and Chris Pine) battling it out over the same girl (Reese Witherspoon). Here's a look at some of his more eyebrow-raising statements about his film.

On toning down the film for a PG-13 rating:

"It's funny because it's the prudish, uptight MPAA that's fine with the violent components, but anything that has to do with sexuality — like I had to open up my vein and bleed. But 'You need to be a bigger liar because your boyfriend's penis is so big that he's getting a penile reduction and every time it lands in my urethra it's like a poltergeist' — who thinks that way? [Cast member] Chelsea [Handler] is out of her f---ing mind and that's why we love her. The MPAA was trying to take out all that stuff. We got it back in, but we got to take out a



► The cast of *This Means War* poses with director McG at the film's premiere last week in London.



► McG

few things. But we retained the authentic comedic stylings of Chelsea Handler."

On a lack of diversity in *This Means War*:

"Listen, that's a huge concern for me, you know? And I can answer that in good faith because I put Lucy Liu in *Charlie's Angels*. I don't like lily-white movies with lily-white people bouncing around, but you also just got to do what you got to do. In the spirit of the Benetton ad rainbow coalition, you know, the most empowered character in the film is indeed a black woman [referring to Angela Bassett's CIA boss]. I enjoy that the most powerful person in Hollywood is indeed a black woman —

Oprah Winfrey. I love ethnic diversity all over the place, but I'm hoping to just transcend beyond that."

On online dating:

"The least you can say is, 'Hey, I'm really into going to bed at 9 o'clock and I like zebras and, you know, role playing.' And then you can get after it in that regard and you can narrow it down to some degree."

On leading lady Reese Witherspoon:

"She's fearless. She's given birth twice, she can do anything."

On finding the right ending for the movie:

"We wanted to have flexibility. We even talked about having two endings and releasing it — if it were on 3,000 screens, 1,500 would have this one, and 1,500 would have that one — and just not say anything."

"There's even an ending where the two boys end up in each other's arms. A homoerotic finish. I pushed out on the ending of *Terminator 4*. I should have gone with the dark ending for that one, so maybe I'll do the dark ending with this one."

Tom Hardy

messes with us

► While he's made a name for himself with more serious performances in the likes of *Bronson*, *Warrior* and *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*, let it be known that Tom Hardy has a wicked sense of humour. In fact, he sometimes has trouble answering questions seriously. When asked about the advent of online dating — a key plot point in *This Means War*, Hardy veers off into an anti-Internet polemic, keeping a straight face the whole time. "I think it's abhorrent, I think the whole thing is abhorrent," he says. "I think online dating is a way of procuring people, you know what I mean? Like Facebook, Myspace. It's a way that people connect out. And procure small children and sometimes you know, dodgy relationships. I don't think it's very healthy. Online dating is cool, but I think Facebook and Myspace is a little off-key."

► So how does Hardy keep in touch with his own friends? "I don't have any friends," he says, still not cracking. "I like to keep to myself. I have a dog and a son. A dog couldn't do anything to upset me, you know, and neither could my son."

► And as for the film itself, which director McG describes as "impossible to put into a box" because of its mix of action and romantic comedy genres? "I agree with that totally," Hardy says. "But I'm worried about the DVD release now. If we can't fit it in a box, we're f---ed."

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Movie reviews

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The Vow
Genre: Drama

Director: Michael Sucsy

Stars: Rachel McAdams, Channing Tatum, Sam Neill

🌐🌐🌐

A serious question: If you awoke in a hospital bed with no memory of how you got there — or your life for the last several years — and were told that you were married to Channing Tatum, would you freak out? Or would you just high-five the nurse?

The reaction of Paige (Rachel McAdams) when faced with that decision in *The Vow* is not so celebratory, unfortunately. The movie takes its time getting anywhere, meandering for long stretches in the awkwardness of Paige trying to readjust to a life she doesn't remember. Points to director Michael Sucsy for resisting temptations to veer into Hollywood romantic territory, as he instead keeps close to reality. **• NED EHRBAR**

Pina
Genre: Documentary

Director: Wim Wenders

Stars: Pina Bausch, Regina Advento, Mailu Airaudo

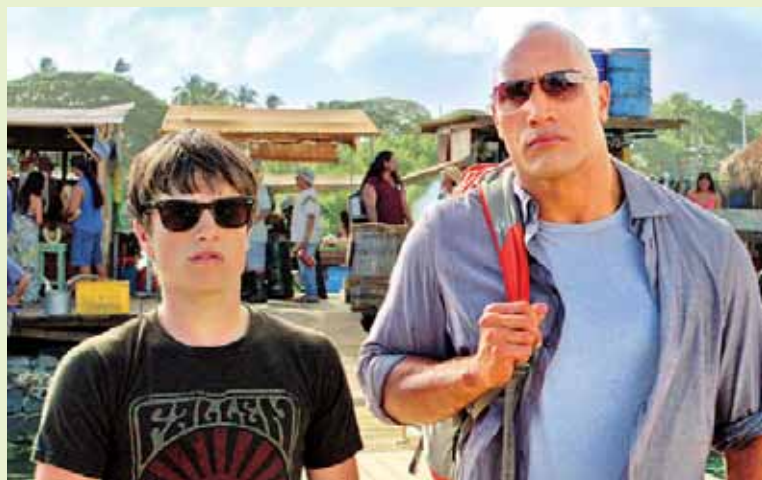
🌐🌐🌐

Pina is a rare film that actually benefits from the 3D format.

Director Wim Wenders' examination of German choreographer Pina Bausch, who died during pre-production, is a character study masquerading as a ballet.

Mixing archival footage with beautiful scenes of her Tanztheater Wuppertal ensemble performing her creations (both onstage and in the outdoors), Wenders uses dance to capture his subject's spirit.

Dance enthusiasts will marvel at this film; there's more than just elaborate body movement on display here.

• IAN GORMELY

Journey 2: The Mysterious Island
Genre: Action/Comedy

Director: Brad Peyton

Stars: Dwayne Johnson, Michael Caine

🌐🌐½

A follow-up to 2008's *Journey to the Centre of the Earth*, *Journey 2*

takes an effects-laden 3D look at Jules Verne's *The Mysterious Island* — a slickly-crafted world full of kooky dwarf elephants and mule-sized bumblebees.

Formulaic and full of familiar characters, this harmless family fare

draws on youthful adventure but Dwayne Johnson's annoying pec-popping and deft skills on ukulele still won't keep the sinking *Mysterious Island* afloat for discerning moviegoers.

• STEVE GOW

Some learning materials aren't visible to the human eye.

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Beauty and the Beast 3D (G) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 12:35-3:6:30 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sun-Mon 12:35-3:6:35 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Tue 12:35-3:6:35 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Wed 12:35-3:6:35 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Thu 12:35-3

Big Miracle (G) Dolby Stereo, Digital Fri-Sat 1:35-7:10-9:45 Dolby Stereo, Digital Sun-Mon 1:35-6:55-9:35 Dolby Stereo, Digital Tue 1:35-7:10-9:45 Dolby Stereo, Digital Wed-Thu 1:35-6:55-9:35

Chronicle (14) Digital, Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 2:41-8:10-15 Digital, Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Tue 2:41-8:10-15 Digital, Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:20-4:10-7:30-10:15

Contraband (STC) Digital, Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 1:30-4:10-7:40-10:15

The Descendants (14) Digital, Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 1:20-4:10-7:20-10:05 Digital, Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sun-Mon 1:20-4:10-7:15-10 Digital, Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Tue 1:20-4:10-7:20-10:05 Digital, Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Wed 1:20-4:10-7:30-10:15 Digital, Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Thu 1:20-4:10-7:15-10

Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close (PG) Digital, Dolby Stereo Fri-Sat 10:20 Digital, Dolby Stereo

Sun-Mon 10:15 Digital, Dolby Stereo Tue 10:20 Digital, Dolby Stereo Wed-Thu 10:15

The Grey (14) Digital, Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 12:30-3:15-6:15-9:05 Digital, Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sun-Mon 12:30-3:15-6:30-9:15 Digital,

Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Tue 12:30-3:15-6:15-9:05 Digital, Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12:30-3:15-6:30-9:15

Hugo 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 9 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sun-Mon 8:55 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Wed 8:55 Digital, Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Thu 9:30

The Iron Lady (STC) Digital, Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 12:55-3:35-7:05-9:40 Digital, Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sun-Mon 12:55-3:35-6:50-9:25 Digital, Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Tue 12:55-3:35-7:05-9:40 Digital, Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12:55-3:35-6:50-9:25

Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (STC) Digital, Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:15

Journey 2: The Mysterious Island 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 3:40-7:15-9:40 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sun-Thu 3:40-7:10-9:35

Man on a Ledge (PG) Digital, Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:50-3:25-6:45-9:20

One for the Money (PG) Digital, Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:20-3:45-7:25-9:50

Safe House (STC) Digital, Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 1:30-4:15-7:30-10:15 Digital, Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Wed

1:25-4:10-10:15 Digital, Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Thu 1:30-4:15-7:30-10:15

Star Wars: Episode I — The Phantom Menace 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:45-3:50-7:05-10:10

Underworld: Awakening 3D (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 1:55-4:15-7:50-10:10 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sun-Mon 1:55-4:15-7:55-10:10 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Tue 1:55-4:15-7:50-10:10 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:55-4:15-7:55-10:10

The Vow (STC) Digital, Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 1:10-3:45-6:50-9:25 Digital, Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sun-Mon 1:10-3:45-6:40-9:15 Digital, Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Tue 1:10-3:45-6:50-9:25 Digital, Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:10-3:45-7:9:35

We Bought a Zoo (STC) Digital, Dolby Stereo Fri-Sat 1:25-4:20-7:25 Digital, Dolby Stereo Sun-Mon 1:25-4:20-7:20 Digital, Dolby Stereo Tue 1:25-4:20-7:25 Digital, Dolby Stereo Wed-Thu 1:25-4:20-7:20

The Woman in Black (STC) Digital, Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 1:50-4:20-7:45-10:15 Digital, Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sun-Mon 1:50-4:20-7:50-10:20 Digital, Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Tue 1:50-4:20-7:50-10:20 Digital, Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:50-4:20-7:50-10:20

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Journey 2: The Mysterious Island — An IMAX 3D Experience (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:40-3:45-7:45-9:50

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► Daniel Radcliffe stars in *The Woman in Black*.

Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (14) Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 6:30-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 3:30-6:30-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital Mon 6:30-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital Tue 3:30-6:30-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital Wed-Thu 6:30-9:30

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3:35-6:35-9:10

The Artist (PG) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:45-3:10-6:40-9 Stadium Seating Mon 4:05-6:40-9 Stadium Seating Tue 4:05-6:35-9 Stadium Seating Wed 4:05-6:40-9 Stadium Seating Thu 4:05-9:15

Chronicle (14) Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 1:15-3:50-7:25-10 Stadium Seating Sun 1:15-3:50-7:15-9:30 Stadium Seating Mon 3:50-7:15-9:30 Stadium Seating Tue 3:50-9:55 Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 3:50-7:15-9:30

The Grey (14) Stadium Seating Fri 1:30-4:05-9:55 Stadium Seating Sat 9:55 Stadium

Seating Sun 1:30-4:05-9:40 Stadium Seating Mon 3:40-7:9:40 Stadium Seating Tue 3:40-7:15-10:05 Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 3:40-7:9:40

Leonardo Live (STC) Stadium Seating Thu 7

The Metropolitan Opera: Götterdämmerung - Live (STC) Stadium Seating Sat 1

Pina 3D (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:30-3:6:55-9:20 Stadium Seating Mon 4:6:55-9:20 Stadium Seating Tue 3:55-6:20-8:50 Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 4:6:55-9:20 **Safe House** (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-

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Digital, Stadium
Seating
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He's no longer 'Edgar Who?'

► The Wrath of the Titans star on how an opportunity passed by marked the start of a successful career



Karl Lagerfeld thinks Edgar Ramirez sits on the cusp of major stardom, and with a high-profile role in March's Wrath of the Titans, it's easy to see why.

The two bonded after Lagerfeld photographed the Venezuelan actor in a series of sessions. Lagerfeld later discovered and enjoyed his films. But Ramirez admits he never even intended to act.

In fact, it took the success of Amores Perros, a film written by his friend Guillermo Arriaga, to nudge him into movies — Ramirez had passed up an opportunity to star in the film in order to focus on his studies.

After holding his own alongside Matt Damon in The Bourne Ultimatum, generating online buzz over a rumored Star Trek 2 role, and nabbing a Most Promising Actor César Award in France for Carlos, Ramirez has earned more than enough one-to-watch points to push him into leading man territory. He talks about them all.

On not doing Amores Perros 10 years ago

"Once I realized that this was the movie my friend had offered me the possibility to be in, I realized



► Edgar Ramirez plays Ares, the traitorous son of Zeus, in The Wrath of the Titans.

that it was worth it to give acting a shot. It just wasn't a priority at the time.

"I didn't foresee it. My life was supposed to go somewhere else. I was preparing to be a political journalist or a diplomat, a member of an interna-

tional organization. That was pretty much the arena where I was heading to.

But actually, not being in [Amores Perros] was the trigger for me to follow the other interests in my life — the interests for performing arts and

movies. So it was a pivotal revelation for me."

On his sci-fi leanings

"It's very interesting to go from one type of moviemaking to another. Wrath of the Titans was a completely different experience for me.

The characters that I've played so far, they have inhabited a naturalistic, realistic world.

So for me, it was very interesting to explore this sort of fantasy. Fantasy, mythology and special effects — a world of imagination, of what the Greek

"I was preparing to be a political journalist or a diplomat... But not being in Amores Perros was the trigger for me to follow the other interests in my life — the interests for performing arts and movies."

RAMIREZ

myths could have been. It's about what can be interesting, what can be touching, and then going for it."

On Karl

"There's this expression in Spanish, I don't know if it translates in English. It says that the deeper the river is, the less noise it makes.

"Karl's a very warm person and he doesn't have anything to prove, so he's approachable, very accessible, very open, very curious, you know? [The first time he photographed me] he made me feel very welcome and comfortable.

He's a walking encyclopedia, you know?

I mean, I think that for me the experience to work with him transcends fashion."



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Nothing but the beat

► Grammy Awards set to feature first dance music segment

Grammy show producer Ken Ehrlich had considered putting dancing/electronic music into the ceremony in the past, but could never quite figure out how to incorporate the high-energy club feel in front of a sometimes staid audience.

He thinks he's figured it out this year. For the first time, the Grammy show will put the spotlight on the genre with a segment featuring Grammy nominees Deadmau5, the Foo Fighters, Chris Brown, David Guetta and Lil Wayne, all performing in a tent space amid 1,000 fans.

"We decided to go all out this year," Ehrlich said of the performance taking place outside the Staples Center in Los Angeles, where Sunday's ceremony will be held. "All we're going to try and do next week is to try and put the home audience in the middle of it. ... It is more than just sitting there and watching it."

Dance music did not receive its own category until 2003 with the best dance recording/dance field, and the music had not been featured with its own segment in the show.

"I don't know that I figured out a way to do it that felt right until now," Ehrlich said in an interview Monday. "My feeling about

dance is it's such an immersive experience for the participant, that to put it on stage ... where the audience is not a part of it ... I don't know, honestly, until we came up with the idea of doing it this way, I don't know if it ever would have worked."

Ehrlich calls the performance the "most ambitious number that we've ever done outside the Staples Center."

It will feature at least four cameras from audience level as Deadmau5 (pronounced dead mouse) and the Foo Fighters perform his remixed version of the band's song Rope, which netted him one of his Grammy nominations, and as Brown and Lil Wayne perform with Guetta.

Other performers on the show include Adele, Bruce Springsteen, Paul McCartney and Taylor Swift for what Ehrlich boasted would be a "pretty amazing show."

"What I try and do when we're building this show is to think about the audience first. ... What can I do that's going to keep an audience for 3 ½ hours watching the Grammy Awards?" he said.

"I do try and look for how broad I can make it and still assume that people are going to tune in and stay with it." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

"As much as a recorded medium that it is, and the fact that it's selling a lot of CDs and downloads, it's really a live experience." GRAMMY SHOW PRODUCER KEN EHRLICH ON DANCE



► David Guetta

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The River: You'll need a nightlight

► Crew of a research vessel search for a missing TV explorer in the Amazon
► Show ups the anxiety and fear factor ► The River airs Tuesdays on CTV



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METRO WORLD NEWS IN NEW YORK

A good scare is a hard thing to come by on a primetime television series, which tend to steer clear of horror outside of dead bodies on a cop show. But when Paranormal Activity mastermind Oren Peli is at the helm, fear becomes the central plot.

The terror auteur makes his television debut with *The River*, a paranormal thriller that chronicles the search for nature show host Dr. Emmet Cole (Bruce Greenwood), who has disappeared in the Amazon.

The rescue operation is spearheaded by Cole's former co-stars — his wife (Leslie Hope) and son (Joe Anderson), who assemble a team that includes a film crew documenting the ex-

pedition. But the hunt for clues quickly leads to unexpected, unearthly finds — like angry spirits and terrifyingly evil baby dolls.

"We were all on the same page that the way we want to create the scares is not with gory images or anything that's overly visual," says Peli. The "we" he refers to includes producing partner Steven Spielberg, who convinced him to turn *The River* into a TV series rather than a film.

"We want to create the kind of anxiety and tension that allows the audience to use their own imagination to fill in the blanks and kind of create their own worst-case nightmare scenario."

The effect is artfully achieved by using "found" footage from the search party's documentary crew as part of the series' cine-



► A scene from *The River*.

matography. Showrunner Zack Estrin finds the tactic so crucial to the heart of the show that he refers to it as "the use of the camera as a character."

"When you're watching the show, you aren't just, you know, seeing people re-

act," Estrin says.

"You're actually having the filmmakers themselves react because those camera guys are getting scared just the same as everybody else, and I think it has a much bigger impression on the audience."

TV picks



Deschanel hits SNL

KARMIN TO PERFORM. New Girl star Zooey Deschanel gets her first crack at hosting Saturday Night Live. She's joined by musical guest Karmin, a duo who became popular online performing covers. (Global)

So you think you can act?

WAY OFF BROADWAY. Amateur community theatre enthusiasts get a

chance to live out their dreams on Friday in the Canadian reality show *Way Off Broadway*. The makeshift cast has eight weeks to practise before performing *The Wizard of Oz* in front of an audience of 1,100 people. (Bravo)

Fear Factor ups the ante

BEE WARY. Fear Factor has already nixed one episode for crossing the line of good taste, so you know they're pushing the boundaries this season. This Sunday, contestants perform death-defying stunts and take on angry swarms of bees. (NBC)

Glued to the ice

SATURDAY. Hockey fans have all day to celebrate the sport with CBC's annual Hockey Day in Canada. The network is focusing on PEI but will use 13 live Canadian locations. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF CAMPUS RADIO

SOUND CHECK



ALAN CROSS
SCENE
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It's important to preserve this vital part of our cultural ecosystem

Last weekend, I was asked to be a guest on CKUW, the campus station at the University of Winnipeg, the place I got my start in radio back in 1980. It was chaotic place with barely serviceable equipment and a closed-circuit broadcast radius that encompassed one hallway and one cafeteria.

The potential audience ranged from several hundred to zero, not counting the times when the speakers in the cafeteria were vandalized because someone didn't like the music that was being played.

My shift was from 8:30-9:30 Friday mornings, assuring me of a maximum audience of about twelve. But despite the station's shortcomings and inadequacies, CKUW is where I

While the presentation may sometimes be amateurish, the content and intent is terribly important.

first got to speak into a mic, cued up a record and got to mix music. It provided just enough experience for me to land my first-ever job at a real commercial radio station.

While in Winnipeg last week, I was asked to participate in CKUW's annual fundraising drive. I hadn't been back since 1983, so I was curious to see how things had changed.

The station now has an over-the-air license, broadcasting at 95.9 FM and runs 24/7. The studios are out of the basement and have a on-air studio, a production studio and a room where bands can set up and perform.

Sheldon, the interviewer, asked, "Can you talk about the importance of campus and community radio today?" Here's what I told him.

At a time when commercial radio stations are tightening their playlist and sticking with familiar big hits to preserve pre-

cious ratings, campus stations have become even more important to the cultural ecosystem. Without having to rely on ratings for revenue, these stations are free to explore the fringes of music, culture and opinion.

While the presentation may sometimes be amateurish, the content and intent is terribly important. Want to hear the widest variety of new and cool indie music from a bunch of different genres? Ideas and opinions not

found in the mainstream media? Want to really dig into the cultural fabric of your city? The answer in each case is campus and community radio.

Keep this in mind when CKUW and other stations of its kind ask for your

support. Write them a cheque. And be generous. You're preserving a vital part of the Canadian cultural ecosystem.

ALAN IS THE HOST OF THE RADIO SHOW THE SECRET HISTORY OF ROCK. REACH HIM AT ALAN@ALANCROSS.CA

Halifax Regional Water Commission employees soundly reject employer's 'final offer'



Unionized water and sewer employees with the Halifax Regional Water Commission (HRWC) – the folks who keep municipal water safe and clean and our sewage system working – are facing possible strike action.

There are three main issues that are outstanding in this dispute:

- HRWC wants the right to assign shift work with a minimum notice of seven days, creating further disruption of family and personal life. We have had set schedules that worked just fine in the past – why the need to change this?
- HRWC wants to take away permanent work locations so they can move us anywhere in HRM – all 5,850 square km of it.
- HRWC has tabled a wage offer that is far below what has been achieved in the municipal sector in other parts of the province.

The members of CUPE Local 227 have sent a clear message to HRWC: we deserve a new contract that is fair and reasonable and enables us to keep up with the ever-increasing cost of living in this city.

Meanwhile, the Nova Scotia Utilities and Review Board noted in December, 2010 that **managerial salaries at the water commission increased between 20 and 40 per cent over a two-year period.** The board found that alarming and said it would be watching for any future salary hikes.

While we view a strike as a last resort – nobody wants to see a disruption in service to HRM residents – we believe we deserve fairness and respect, something we have not received in this round of bargaining.

Fairness and Respect!

A message from CUPE Local 227

CUPE / Canadian Union of Public Employees

► Campus radio stations are free to explore the fringes of music.



Let's wave goodbye to the blond weave

► The human Barbie doll look needs to go, says Metro's Dorothy Robinson

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA



Well, that's it. By appearing at an amfAR gala on Wednesday night in New York City with this rug on her head, Lindsay Lohan has officially killed the blond, wavy, weave look.

But is that such a bad thing? The blond weave has had a good run. (How good did 52-year-old Madonna look with one while performing at Sunday night's Super Bowl?) But the look — it's getting a bit tired, no? Like, we get it: You're a human Barbie doll. Good for you.



► Lindsay Lohan

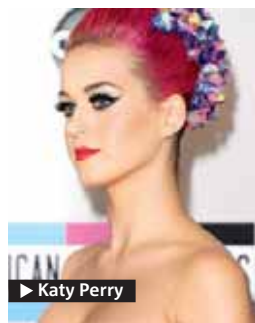
It's officially over

Well, that was fast. Katy Perry has signed Russell Brand's divorce settlement, reaching an agreement to end their 14-month marriage, according to TMZ.

"The parties have entered into a comprehensive written settlement of all issues, including, without limitation, with respect to the property to be confirmed or assigned to each party," the document reads, outlining that Brand isn't after any of Perry's money.

The former couple insisted their split was amicable, and that's certainly the case if Perry's signature is any indication: She signed the divorce settlement with a little smiley face next to her name.

METRO



► Katy Perry

Celebrity tweets



Tonight, I'm staying in and proving to myself that I really will watch just about anything on tv.



@almeemann

@oliviawilde

House lovers, it's the end of an era. Shows like that don't happen, well, ever. I'm honored to have been a part of such a brilliant story.



@pattonoswalt



Three days after I was born, The Beatles played their last concert (1/30/69). My bad.

@RealMattLucas



Huge congratulations to The Daily Star for making up an interview with me today.

Courtney Cox can't get a date

Courtney Cox hasn't been having much luck in the romance department since her split from husband David Arquette, she admits in an interview with Howard Stern.

"No guy's asked me out. I'm not saying I'm not ready to have a make-out session, but it just makes me nervous."

I don't like to go out in general," she says.

"I have sexual feelings, and there's ways to deal with that."

But Cox admits that dating needs to make its way to the top of her agenda: "It's time for me to get out there. It's not easy to meet people. They don't call me," she explains.

METRO



Courtney Cox

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3 life

Sweet creation



Want to make chocolate this Valentine's Day? Alan Kehl, a hobbyist chocolate-maker from Waterloo, Ont., says these tools are essential for any serious chocolate-maker:

1. A thermometer.
2. Scales (for weighing ingredients).
3. A slab of marble (it's best to work with chocolate on a cool surface).
4. A set of dipping forks (for dipping pieces of ganache into chocolate).

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Of bubbly love potions



PETER ROCKWELL
LIQUIDASSETS@EASTLINK.CA
TWITTER: @THEREALWINEGUY

With Valentine's Day around the corner, love is in the air and all over the greeting card racks at your local pharmacy.

I'm sure most of you love birds will launch a pre-emptive passion play and celebrate this weekend, but I like when the holiday falls on a Tuesday as it does this year. It means I have an excuse to inject spice into an uneventful winter evening.

A bottle of rosé wine has the right dark pink hue, but mixing a glass of sparkling white wine with a touch of fruit liqueur looks and tastes sexier. France's Chambord Royale (\$36.75 - \$45.99) is a modern take on a Loire Valley-based liqueur made with black raspberries that dates back to the 17th century. Its big blast of berry is softened when a teaspoon is mixed with red or white wine.

If mixology doesn't sound attractive, the Chilean sparkler Fresita (\$12.90 - \$15.99) combines bubbles with an infusion of strawberries. It's a perfect match for romance. **PRICES REFLECT RANGE ACROSS CANADA. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**

Wine 'em & dine 'em

DINNER EXPRESS

EMILY RICHARDS
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA



This fab recipe from Daniela Molettieri, winning Canadian student chef of the S. Pellegrino Almost Famous Chef Competition, will surely win over your lover for Valentine's Day!

With two tenderloins, enjoy one and bring one for lunch to let your co-workers know who loves you!

Filet of Veal Stuffed with Wild Mushrooms, served with Butternut Squash and Roasted Hazelnut Purée

Preparation:

1 Butternut Squash Purée: Bring squash to boil in salted water 20 mins. or until very soft. Drain well and return to pot. Using potato masher, mash well with butter, salt and pepper. Stir in hazelnuts. Set aside and keep warm.

2 In skillet, melt 1/4 cup (60 mL) of butter over

medium high heat; cook mushrooms, shallots, thyme and garlic, stirring occasionally 15 mins. or until liquid has evaporated. Set aside and let cool.

3 Using chef's knife, make incision in centre of tenderloin across middle, not cutting through to the other side. Cut along each side to open more. Stuff with mushroom mix and close. Tie tenderloins with butcher's twine in 2 inch (5 cm) intervals and place seam side down on parchment paper lined baking sheet; sprinkle with half of pepper and salt. Roast in 350 F (180 C) oven 45 mins. or until meat thermometer reaches 150 F (65 C) for medium rare. Rest for before slicing.

4 In saucepan combine dried mushrooms and stock and simmer for 10 minutes. Drain through fine mesh sieve and return stock to saucepan. Whisk in remaining butter and pepper.

5 Spread squash in centre of plate and place veal slices alongside. Spoon sauce along meat to serve.

DANIELA MOLETTIERI/ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS



► This recipe serves eight, so be sure to share the love.

Ingredients:

- 2 veal or pork tenderloins
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) butter
- 12 oz (375 g) fresh mixed fresh mushrooms, minced
- 4 shallots, minced
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) chopped fresh thyme leaves
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) black pepper
- Pinch salt

- 2 1/2 cups (625 mL) veal or beef stock
- 1 cup (250 mL) dried mushrooms (about 1 oz/30 g)

Butternut Squash and Roasted Hazelnut Purée:

- 1 1/2 lbs (750 g) peeled and cubed butternut squash
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) butter
- Pinch salt and pepper
- 1/3 cup (75 mL) chopped toasted hazelnuts

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A sweet and rich duo

► This Valentine's Day, skip the store-bought chocolate and whip up this simple, sweet treat — with cheese!

Chocolate Cheese & Strawberry Mousse Duet



► This recipe serves 12.

Dense rich chocolate cheese is the base for a refreshingly tasty strawberry layer.

Each bite complements the other and makes for a perfect make-ahead dessert for family, friends and lovers.

Chocolate Cheese and Strawberry Mousse Duet Preparation:

1 Place chocolate in a medium heat-proof bowl. In a small saucepan, bring 1/2 cup

(125 mL) of the sugar and water to boil. Boil for 1 minute or until sugar is dissolved. Pour over chocolate and let stand for 1 minute. Whisk together until chocolate is smooth; set aside.

2 In a bowl, using an electric mixer, beat cream cheese, 1 cup (250 mL) of the whipping cream and vanilla until fluffy. Add chocolate and beat until smooth and combined. Spoon into dessert dishes and refrigerate.

3 In blender or food processor, purée strawberries and remaining sugar until smooth; transfer to large bowl. In a microwave-safe measuring cup, whisk

gelatin into 1/2 cup (125 mL) of the whipping cream. Microwave on High (100%) power for 45 seconds or until dissolved. Stir into strawberry puree and add remaining whipping cream. With an electric mixer, beat until slightly thickened and spoon on top of chocolate cheese layer. Cover loosely and refrigerate until set, for about 2 hours. Garnish with chocolate shavings to

serve.

RECIPE COURTESY OF DAIRY-GOODNESS.CA

Ingredients:

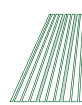
- 8 oz (250 g) 70% cocoa bittersweet chocolate, chopped
- 3/4 cup (175 mL) granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) water
- 18 oz (250 g) brick cream

- cheese, softened
- 2 cups (500 mL) 35% whipping cream
- 2 tsp (10 mL) vanilla
- 3 cups (750 mL) frozen strawberries, thawed
- 1 envelope (7 g) unflavoured gelatin
- Chocolate shavings

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VALENTINE'S
DAY!
gift guide



Think outside the chocolate box

**ASTRID
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FOR METRO

Forget the crammed restaurant with inflated prices. Try something different this Valentine's Day.

"It's a great day to practise what being in a relationship is all about," says Dale Curd, a Toronto-based psychotherapist. Here are some fresh ideas to sample this Feb. 14.

A "learn together" date. "Such as a dance lesson. What you're trying to do is excite your partner's mind and appeal to their heart," says Curd. "And it's not

what just one person wants to do. It's something that has you both leaning beyond your edge, as in 'Ooh, I don't know if I could do that.'" Some things to try? Hitting a roller rink together or taking a cooking class. (Have no romantic

partner on the horizon? Couple up with a friend or a few pals for a girls or guys night out.)

Surprise your partner with a gift that anticipates their needs — maybe your girlfriend lives off of frozen meals. "Order a meal service for a week for her," says Christine Hart, a Toronto-based dating

coach. "So it's something you think your partner is going without right now."

Try the "high/low" concept. Instead of the fancy restaurant meal, pick up yummy ingredients at a farmers' market or grocery store to recreate a meal together at home, she adds. If you are dateless on Valentine's, try this with friends or mixed singles — everyone brings an ingredient (or course) to make the meal together.

Rose Elixir Massage Candle,
\$19.95, available at La Vie En Rose,
lavieenrose.com.

Create a new ritual. Skip the heart-shaped box of chocolates and instead fill a basket with different blends of coffee beans and two new mugs. "Then make a point of getting up earlier each morning — before the kids! — to share some java before starting your day," says Debra Macleod, a relationship counsellor in Red Deer, Alta. "Studies show that couples who enjoy such rituals have longer and happier unions."

In the mood for something spicier? Try body sliding. "This is a style of sensual body massage where lovers drench their bare bodies in oil and slide over, under and around each other, sort of an adult slip-and-slide," says Macleod. "Countless studies show that regular, pleasurable sexual intimacy is strongly associated with marital success."



5
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days left



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Cranberry Love Heart-Shaped Glycerine Soap, 100 g, \$5, available at Fruits & Passion, fruits-passion.ca.



Strawberry Licorice, \$5.99, available at the Bay, thebay.com.



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GREEN & BLACK'S PHOTO

Green & Black's Organic Dishwasher Chocolate Martini

Ingredients:

- 750 ml bottle Vodka
- 2 100g Green & Black's Dark 70% chocolate bars
- 2 teaspoons sugar syrup
- ¼ teaspoon vanilla extract
- Ice

Preparation:

MAKING THE CHOCOLATE VODKA

1 Prepare the chocolate vodka several hours in advance or the night before. Pour 250 ml of vodka reserving for later. This will leave 500 ml in the bottle.

2 Break up the chocolate and feed into the bottle, reserving some chocolate for garnish. This should bring the vodka back to the level when it was full. Make sure to not overfill as the liquor will expand a little in the dishwasher. Put the lid back on and wrap Saran Wrap around the lid and bottle neck.

3 Place the bottle in the dishwasher and run it

through a normal wash cycle. This will melt the chocolate into the vodka. After the wash cycle give the bottle a good shake. If the chocolate is not fully melted run the wash cycle a second time.

4 Once the chocolate is fully melted, allow the vodka to cool down at room temperature. Place the bottle in the freezer for a few hours or leave overnight.

MAKING THE MARTINI

1 Fill your martini glass with ice to chill. Grate the reserved chocolate onto a large plate.

2 In a cocktail shaker, pour 70 ml of chocolate vodka. Add the sugar syrup and vanilla extract and a handful of ice. Shake vigorously.

3 Discard the ice from the glass. Dip the rim of the glass into the grated chocolate and double sieve the martini into the glass and serve. Makes 10 servings.

TIPS:

The amount of sugar syrup you add should be according to your taste. Substitute vodka with gin or white rum.

RECIPE COURTESY OF
GREEN & BLACK'S ORGANIC

Green & Black's Swedish Chocolate Coffee Lamb

Ingredients:

- 50 g self-rising flour
- ½ tsp mustard powder
- 1 kg very lean lamb (filet or leg), cut into 3cm (1¼ in) cubes
- 75 g unsalted butter
- 3 garlic cloves
- 1 large onion
- 12 shallots
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tbsp Kahlua (coffee liqueur)
- 250 ml strong filter coffee
- 750 ml good quality lamb stock
- 50 g Green & Black's Organic Dark 70%, broken into pieces
- pinch of sea salt
- freshly ground black pepper

Spices and seasonings

- 1 blade mace, crumbled
- 12 cardamom pods, crushed
- 1 vanilla pod, de-seeded
- ½ tsp nutmeg, grated
- 1 star anise
- 3 bay leaves, crumbled

For the croutons

- 1 slice white bread
- 1 slice granary bread
- olive oil

To garnish

- 1 tablespoon crème fraîche
- Handful chopped fresh parsley



GREEN & BLACK'S PHOTO

Preparation:

1 Place all the spices and seasonings for the croutons in a heavy based frying pan. Gently toast over a very low heat for approximately 10-15 minutes, removing from over before they burn. Put in a small bowl and reserve until needed for the croutons. Preheat oven to 425 F (220 C) gas mark 7.

2 Season the flour with the mustard powder, salt and pepper. Toss the lamb in the seasoned flour and coat well. Rub together 25 g of butter and the remaining seasoned flour.

3 Crush the garlic, slice the onion into rings and finely chop the shallots. Fry in the remaining butter and olive oil until golden brown. Remove and set aside.

4 In the same pan, fry the flour-coated lamb in batches until browned on all sides. Remove and place in a flameproof casserole dish and add the reserved garlic, onion and shallot mixture.

5 To the same frying pan, add the Kahlua and the coffee to the sticky brown residue in the pan and, over medium heat. Use a whisk to scrape up all the bits from the base of the pan for about 4 minutes. The sauce should be reduced by half and form a glossy smooth sauce.

6 Add the lamb stock and the flour and butter mixture, continuing to stir. Bring to a boil and pour over the meat and onion mixture.

7 Place the casserole dish in the middle of the oven for and cook for 15 minutes.

Then reduce the temperature to 160 C (325 F) gas mark 3 and cook for another 45 minutes or until the lamb is tender.

8 For the croutons, blend all the reserved spices and discard the cardamom pods. Cut the bread into cubes and gently fry with the spices and olive oil. Remove and set aside.

9 Remove the lamb from the oven and stir in the pieces of chocolate and incorporate well into the casserole. Garnish with crème fraîche, chopped parsley and the croutons. Serve with boiled new potatoes or mashed potatoes and simple vegetables. Makes 4-6 servings.

RECIPE COURTESY OF GREEN & BLACK'S ORGANIC

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More sports



THE HALIFAX RAINMEN WILL LOOK TO SHAKE OUT OF THEIR WORST SLUMP OF THE SEASON WHEN THEY VISIT THE OSHAWA POWER ON FRIDAY AT 8:30 P.M. THE RAINMEN, THIRD IN THE NATIONAL BASKETBALL LEAGUE OF CANADA WITH A 17-10 RECORD, HAVE LOST FOUR OF THEIR PAST FIVE GAMES BUT CAN CLINCH A PLAYOFF SPOT WITH A VICTORY.

Fitzner-LeBlanc, Murphy lead Tankard

Mayflower's Ian Fitzner-LeBlanc is tied atop the leaderboard with CFB Halifax's Jamie Murphy at the Molson Tankard in Bridgewater.

Fitzner-LeBlanc, skipping a new rink featuring third Paul Flemming, second Robert Doherty and

lead Kelly Middelstadt, has matched Murphy's 4-1 record after two days of action at Nova Scotia men's curling championship.

The 2010 provincial champion posted three consecutive wins on Thurs-

day, topping Brent MacDougall 6-4 in the morning draw, Kent Smith 6-2 in the afternoon, and Ian Juurlink 6-1 in the evening. All three opponents also curl out of Mayflower, while Smith is a former teammate of Fitzner-LeBlanc's.

Murphy, featuring third Jordan Pinder, second Mike Bardsley and Donald McDermaid, also posted three straight victories on Thursday, getting the better of Juurlink 6-5, Stevens 9-5 and MacDougall 9-2.

Five-time winner Mark

Dacey is one of three teams tied with 3-2 records.

Round-robin action continues Friday, with the top four qualifying for Saturday's Page playoffs. The final will be played Sunday at 2 p.m.

● METRO

Hannay out to start trip

► Mooseheads set to face three of QMJHL's best ► Herd have dropped 8 of 12



MATTHEW WUEST

@METRONEWS.CA

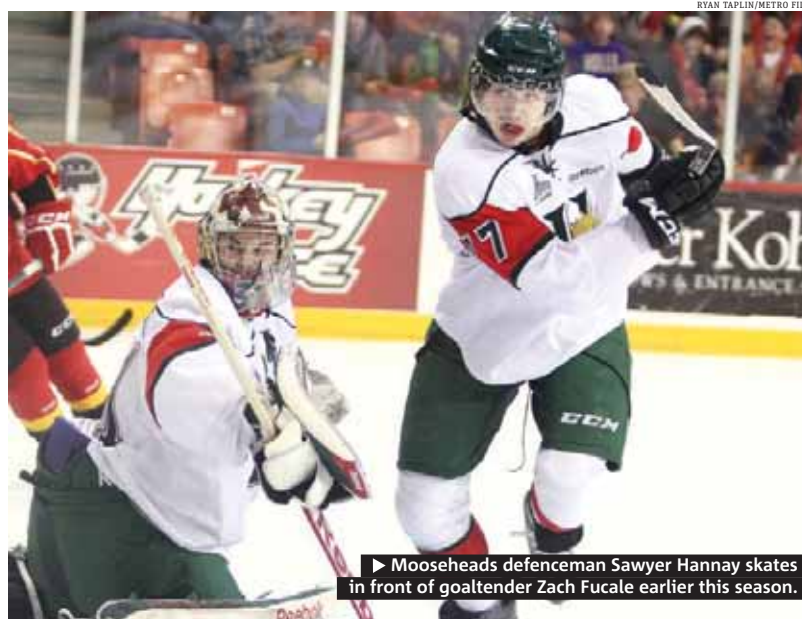
The Halifax Mooseheads are a man down — an important man down — heading into a brutal road trip against three QMJHL powerhouses.

Sawyer Hannay, perhaps the Mooseheads' No. 1 defenceman this season, will sit out Friday's 8:30 p.m. game against the Chicoutimi Saguenéens with what the team will only call an "upper-body injury." He'll be day-to-day from there.

The Mooseheads also visit the Shawinigan Cataractes on Saturday at 5 p.m. and the Victoriaville Tigres on Sunday at 5 p.m.

"He's been playing really well for us, for sure, but we faced losses like that (earlier) this year," said Mooseheads head coach Dominique Ducharme. "We've just got to be making sure everyone's picking up the slack."

The six-foot-four, 198-pound Vancouver Canucks seventh-round draft pick has two assists and is a minus-4 in 47 games. He logs



► Mooseheads defenceman Sawyer Hannay skates in front of goaltender Zach Fucale earlier this season.

big minutes on the top pairing and penalty kill against opponents' top scorers.

Travis Randell will be used on defence, giving the Mooseheads six blueliners. Up front, veteran checker Brad Cuzner remains in Halifax with an illness, but

could join the team on Saturday if his condition improves.

The Mooseheads, 4-6-2 in the new year, opened the four-game road trip with a 2-1 shootout loss to Baie-Comeau on Wednesday.

"I like the focus of our

team right," Ducharme said. "We practised this morning and the guys were really excited and happy to be taking on the challenge we have in the next three days."

"Guys are together and ready to go."

Drakkar get away with Mac attack ad

The Baie-Comeau Drakkar are off the hook for a controversial newspaper ad that ran this week surrounding Nathan MacKinnon's first visit to the small Quebec town.

The half-page colour ad, which appeared in French in *Plein Jour* de Baie-Comeau, encouraged fans to come cheer on the Drakkar against a player who made the choice to not come to Baie-Comeau.

MacKinnon, 16, was drafted first overall by the Drakkar last June but wouldn't report to Baie-Comeau and ended up being traded to the Mooseheads in July.

QMJHL spokesman Karl Jahnke told Metro Halifax on Thursday the Drakkar will not be disciplined for running the ad, but said the league has "spoken to the Drakkar about the matter." ● MATTHEW WUEST

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NHL heading to the Big House

► League makes Michigan Winter Classic official ► Leafs say there's already 'overwhelming demand' for tickets

Two iconic franchises, two passionate fanbases and the largest stadium in North America. The Toronto Maple Leafs and Detroit Red Wings are set to take the Winter Classic to a whole new level in 2013.

"It's Hockeytown versus the centre of the hockey universe," Maple Leafs general manager Brian Burke said Thursday.

The Original Six foes will play outdoors at Michigan Stadium — known as the Big House — on Jan. 1, part of a showcase that includes minor league and junior hockey games at Detroit's Comerica Park.

Toronto will be the first Canadian team to play in the Winter Classic when the Leafs and Wings face off about 75 kilometres west of Detroit in Ann Arbor.

They'll arrive with a fanbase that needed about an

117

The Detroit-Toronto rivalry dates to 1927. They play in different conferences now, but the Wings have faced the Leafs in 117 playoff games, second only to 170 Boston-Montreal meetings.

hour to crash the ticket presale website after Thursday's announcement. The Leafs' official Twitter feed cited "overwhelming demand" for the problem.

The NHL is expecting to eclipse Michigan Stadium's Guinness World Record hockey crowd of 104,173 from a 2010 NCAA game.

"Even with 115,000 or more tickets available, we still won't have enough to satisfy the demand," said



► Red Wings goalie Jimmy Howard, left, talks with NHL commissioner Gary Bettman on the field at Michigan Stadium in Ann Arbor on Thursday.

commissioner Gary Bettman.

Buffalo, Chicago, Boston, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia have all hosted the event.

comfortable that it would work well," Bettman said.

There have been two outdoor Heritage Classics on Canadian soil: Montreal vs. Edmonton at Commonwealth Stadium in 2003, and Montreal vs. Calgary at McMahon Stadium last year. The game in Edmonton was the NHL's first outdoor regular season game.

Detroit hasn't hosted the Winter Classic, but the Red Wings played in it in 2009, beating the Blackhawks 6-4 at Chicago's Wrigley Field.

Detroit veteran Nicklas Lidstrom was in Ann Arbor to promote the Winter Classic, raising an obvious question: Does it mean he'll be back for a 21st season?

"We'll have to wait and see," said Lidstrom, who turns 42 in April. "It's only one game, but it's an intriguing one."

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Sports in pictures

PHOTOS
1. JOHN LEYBA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
2. ROB CARR/GETTY IMAGES
3. ERIC JAMISON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
4. JIM MCISAAC/GETTY IMAGES



1 Dirk Nowitzki and Paul Pierce overcame slow starts to return to the all-star game, while lengthy runs ended for Kevin Garnett and Tim Duncan.

2 Jeremy Lin is making the Knicks must-see TV in Asia. The NBA says its Asian TV partners have added Knicks games to their schedules following the emergence of Lin, the first American-born NBA player of Chinese or Taiwanese descent.

3 Nick Diaz's failed bid for the UFC interim welterweight title has been punctuated by a positive test for marijuana. The Nevada State Athletic Commission said Diaz failed a test at UFC 143.

4 Scott Gomez's goal drought is finally over after more than a year. The much maligned Montreal forward scored a power-play goal Thursday in the Canadiens' 4-2 win over the New York Islanders. He hadn't scored since Feb. 5, 2011.

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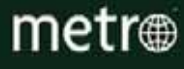
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Community Events

BUSINESS LUNCHEON

With Guest Speaker from CBSA
What: Business Luncheon with Jim Spina, Senior Programs Officer (CBSA HQ)
When: Wednesday, Feb. 15th, 2012
Time: Noon to 1 pm
Where: Burnside Conference Room, Ramada Plaza, Dartmouth
Cost: \$30 per person
Register: Email Bree bphilippe@even-rez.com or visit www.tchd.ca
Please RSVP by 4 pm Feb 10th

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Spiritual

Thank you

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Amen

Thank you for your love towards me and my loved ones.

Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days without asking your wish. After the third day your wish will be granted now matter how difficult it may be.

Promise to publish this dialogue as soon as this favor has been granted.
Signed CL

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Miscellaneous

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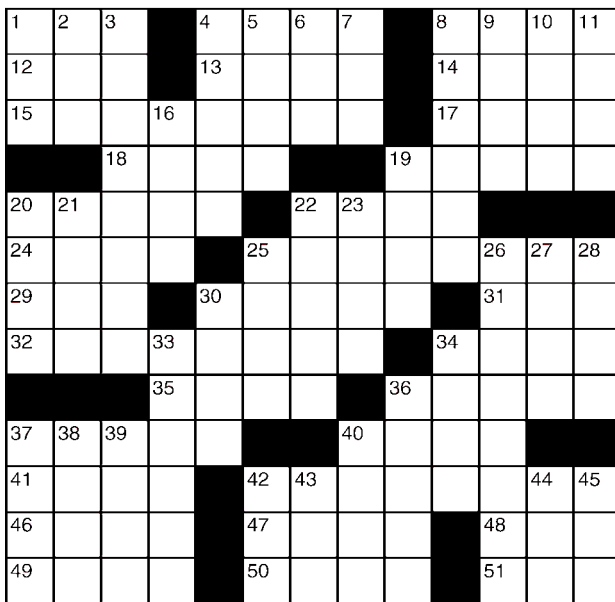
Crossword

Across

- 1 Ump
4 Touch
8 Complain habitually
12 "— Little Teapot"
13 Traditional tales
14 Addict
15 Platypus feature
17 Comedian Caroline
18 Hebrew month
19 In a crafty way
20 Mideast belief
22 You
24 Bridle strap
25 Voluntary choice
29 Worldwide lending org.
30 Sloop features
31 Conk out
32 Don't fidget
34 Adolescent
35 Weightlifter's lift
36 "Trivial Pursuit" edition
37 Recovery center
40 Splinter group
41 Luminary
42 Into worse shape
46 Crooner Jerry
47 Jai —
48 Dead heat
49 Trudge along
50 Actress Neuwirth
51 However

Down

- 1 Disencumber
2 Ostrich's cousin
3 Cosmetic procedure
4 Photo book
5 Seethe
6 Web address
7 Aviv predecessor
8 Sandpiper relative
9 Wan
10 Bobbin
11 Say the paternoster
16 "The Birth of a Nation" group
19 Gets a glimpse of
20 Rainbow goddess
21 Half (Pref.)
22 Warble
23 Satan's domain
25 Equitable
26 Modern-day target of theft
27 Stead
28 Camera part

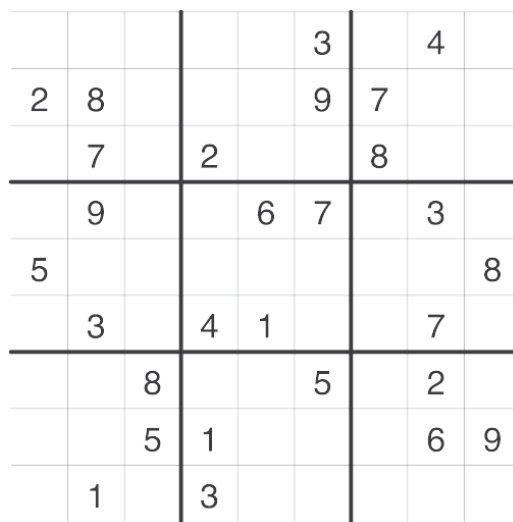


- 30 Moviegoer's souvenir
33 Afraid
34 Georgia or Cal —
36 Bottled spirit?
37 Answer an invite
38 List-ending abbr.
39 Head light?
40 Mop
42 Brylcreem bit
43 Bullring bravo
44 Whopper
45 Allow

► Yesterday's answer



Sudoku



How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

► Yesterday's answer

2	1	7	3	5	6	8	4	9
6	3	8	4	9	2	7	5	1
4	5	9	8	1	7	6	3	2
7	2	5	9	6	1	4	8	3
1	6	4	2	8	3	9	7	5
9	8	3	5	7	4	2	1	6
3	7	6	1	4	9	5	2	8
8	4	2	6	3	5	1	9	7
5	9	1	7	2	8	3	6	4

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, at metronews.ca/kiss.

mon chere, words may deceive but eyes dont lie. mind was made when we first met. lets not delay destiny any more. DEVIDAS

The woman who drove me to work Feb 9: You told me you had just driven your grandchildren to work and passed me twice and needed to stop and offer a ride. Just wanted to say thanks again. Nice to know there are still good people out there :) A GRATEFUL GIRL

55Cartier412, A year ago today, you chose to walk into my life and you chose to walk out just as quickly. It was just too easy for you, yet one year later, you are all I think of! I decided to follow through on what I said I'd do. You won't get your package. I've decided, if I am wrong, it won't matter...I'll get the return. It's what I need to do so I can accept truth. 633NORTH108

Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20

It's a good thing you like surprises because there will be plenty today and over the weekend.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21

Someone you think is a friend may in fact be harbouring a grudge, so keep your eyes and ears open.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21

Today and tomorrow, many strange things will happen to make you wonder if there is more to life than what your five senses tell you.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22

You need to break free of habits that hold you back from realizing your potential. Time for change.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug. 23

Try something you have never done before. The last thing you need is to get stuck in a rut.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24-Sept. 22

Don't try to hang on to things that are being taken away from you. You're better off without them.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23

You will meet someone today who inspires you to do more with your life. You will also inspire others.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Unexpected changes will throw you out of your stride for a bit, but a Scorpio is never in limbo for long. You'll regain confidence soon.

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec.

This is a hugely positive time for creative endeavors, so don't sit waiting for life to come to you.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20

Someone with whom you are close will do something that shocks you. He or she is entitled to be different.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18

You will get the red carpet treatment today. But be selective where invitations are concerned. You're popular but can't be everywhere.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20

Col-leagues may need some convincing that what you are planning is a good idea. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption contest



You write it!

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